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## American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School of Security and Global Studies**

**IRLS662**

**Middle Eastern Culture**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Length of Course: 8 Weeks**

**Prerequisite: POLS500**

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### Instructor Information

**Instructor Name:** [insert name with credentials]

**Biography:** [insert link from APUS website]

**Please contact me through the “messages” tab in the classroom while our class is in session.**

After the course ends, please contact me through the university email system: [insert mycampus address]

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### Course Description (Catalog)

#### **IRLS 662 Middle Eastern Culture (3 credit hours)**

This course covers the geography, culture, society, economy, and religions of the major ethnic and linguistic groups in the Middle East. The course will introduce students to important events and

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developments, such as the changing concepts of politics in Islam; the evolving sociological bases of states and societies in the Middle East; and the impact of Europe and the West on the Middle East, and more recent events such as the Arab popular uprisings. Because no event or movement occurs without a context, the course examines the cultural and social frameworks.

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### Course Scope

As a research seminar, this course focuses on specialized area knowledge and sources in the field. Students will conduct research in preparation for the Capstone project in the Graduate program and will complete a research design statement, a literature review, a preliminary draft, and a final research paper. The readings and research cover the analyses of major factors that shape the Middle Eastern culture: religion, tribalism, the impact of Western powers, traditions, customs, mores, and traditional norms. In this context, the course explores socio-cultural motives and values tightly intertwined to create a unique social fabric prevailing in the region for centuries.

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### Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- CO-1: Examine the value of culture and cultural identity for understanding Middle Eastern economies, politics, and international relations.
- CO-2: Identify and examine the different cultures and identities in the Middle East.
- CO-2: Compare and contrast different culture groups in the Middle East.
- CO-3: Explore and analyze the impact of history and nationalism on Middle Eastern cultural identities.
- CO-4: Identify and analyze external influences on cultural identity in the Middle East, including globalization and social media.
- CO-5: Explore and analyze the religions of the Middle East and examine their impact on culture.
- CO-6: Conduct a research project on a topic relevant to the course title and objectives.

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### Course Delivery Method

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This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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## Course Resources

### Required Course Textbooks

Stewart, Dona J.	The Middle East Today: Political, Geographical and Cultural Perspectives- E-book available in the APUS Online Library	Routledge, 2009	9780415772426
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This book is available electronically in the online library via the classroom.

### Required Readings

Other readings are available electronically within the classroom.

### Additional Resources and Web Sites

Videos and web sites are available within the classroom and through the university electronic library.

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## Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

### Discussion Forums – 30 percent

Discussion questions will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings and respond to the assigned topic(s). Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday

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at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

**Research Question, Purpose Statement, and Citation Format Exercise – 20 percent**

The components of this assignment include a research question and a purpose and design statement. It must contain at least 8 sources, at least 6 of which must be peer-reviewed. The specific research question should relate to a topic covered in the course. Length: 8 pp.

**Literature Review—20 percent**

This document contains an annotated summary of the major sources that will be used in the research paper, all of which must be peer-reviewed articles or scholarly texts. Students will identify the source, offer a short synopsis of its main argument, and offer a statement of relevance to the research project. Length: 8 pp.

**Final Paper—30 percent**

This is the final paper assignment of the course. It must contain citations in formal style as well as a bibliography. Length: 15 pp.

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Research Design Assignment	20 percent
Literature Review Assignment	20 percent
Forum Discussions	30 percent
Research Paper	30 percent
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 percent</b>

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## 8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

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<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1	Cultural Geographies in the Middle East	CO-1: Explore and analyze the value of culture and cultural identity for understanding Middle Eastern economies, politics, and international relations  LO-1: Examine the cultural landscape of the Middle East	Stewart (2013) Chapters 1 and 2  Heiss (2006) <i>Culture and US Relations with the Middle East</i>  Held and Cummings (2010) <i>The Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East</i>	Week One Forum  <b>Discussion Forum 1: Introductions</b>  <b>Discussion Forum 2: Cultural Geographies in the ME</b>  Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm (all times EDT)  Lesson Notes  Weekly Readings

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2	States, Nationalisms, and Minorities	<p>CO-2: Compare and contrast different culture groups in the Middle East</p> <p>CO-3: Explore and analyze the impact of history and nationalism on Middle Eastern cultural identities</p> <p>LO-1: Examine the role of states in the Middle East</p> <p>LO-2: Analyze the interactions of nations and minorities</p> <p>LO-3: Identify and explore a topic for research</p>	<p>Stewart (2013) Chapters 3 and 7</p> <p>Excerpts from Shatzmiller (2005) <i>Nationalism and Minority Identities in the Islamic Societies</i></p> <p>Supplemental:</p> <p>Baehr (2009) <i>Tribes and Terror in the Middle East: A Conversation with Philip Carl Salzman</i></p> <p>Bates (2001) <i>Local Organization of Power</i></p> <p>Lewis (2003) <i>Iraqi Assyrians</i></p> <p>Kumaraswamy (2003) <i>Problems of Studying Minorities in the Middle East</i></p>	<p>Week Two Forum</p> <p><b>Discussion Forum: Assessing nations and minorities</b></p> <p><b>Research Forum: What's your topic?</b></p> <p>Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
3	<i>Orientalism</i> and its Respondents	<p>CO-4: Identify and analyze external influences on cultural identity in the Middle East, including globalization and social media</p> <p>LO -1: Understand and analyze the concept of orientalism and its critiques</p> <p>LO-2: Design a</p>	<p>Lockman (2004) <i>Said's Orientalism: a Book and its Aftermath</i></p> <p>Salzman (2007) <i>Arab Culture and Post-Colonial Theory</i></p>	<p>Week Three Forum:</p> <p><b>Discussion Forum: What is Orientalism</b></p> <p>Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm</p> <p>Assignment</p> <p><b>Assignment 1: Research Design</b></p> <p>Due Sunday 11:55pm</p>

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		research method for the final paper		Lesson Notes Weekly Readings
4	Local Spheres: Family, Gender, Community	<p>CO-2: Identify and examine the different cultures and identities in the Middle East</p> <p>CO-2: Compare and contrast different culture groups in the Middle East</p> <p>LO-1: Explore and analyze family and community structures in the Middle East</p> <p>LO-2: Analyze changes in gender dynamics in the Middle East</p> <p>LO-3: Critique and analyze a research source</p>	<p>Abdel-Latif (2008) <i>In the Shadow of the Brothers: The Women of the Muslim Brotherhood</i></p> <p>Abu-Lughod (2002) <i>Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?</i></p> <p>Crocco et al. (2009) <i>At the Crossroads of the World: Women of the Middle East</i></p> <p>Singerman (2006) <i>Restoring the Family to Civil Society</i></p>	<p>Week Four Forum</p> <p><b>Discussion Forum: Family, gender, community</b></p> <p><b>Research Forum: Engaging your sources</b></p> <p>Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm.</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
5	Tradition versus Modernity?	<p>CO-4: Identify and analyze external influences on cultural identity in the Middle East, including globalization and social media</p> <p>LO-1: Explore and analyze the concepts of</p>	<p>Stewart (2013) Chapter 5-6</p> <p>Little (2008) <i>American Orientalism</i></p>	<p>Week Five Forum:</p> <p><b>Discussion Forum: Are tradition and modernity opposing forces?</b></p> <p>Assignment</p> <p><b>Assignment 2: Literature Review</b></p>

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		<p>modernity and tradition</p> <p>LO-2: Construct a review of literature on a research topic</p>		<p>Due Sunday 11:55pm</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
6	<p>Tweeting the Revolution:</p> <p>Culture and the Media in the Middle East</p>	<p>CO-4: Identify and analyze external influences on cultural identity in the Middle East, including globalization and social media</p> <p>LO-1: Explore and analyze the role of globalization in the Middle East</p> <p>LO-2: Examine popular movements in the Middle East and analyze the role of media</p> <p>LO-3: Identify and discuss gaps in the literature on a research topic</p>	<p>Stewart (2013) Chapter 11</p> <p>Khondker (2011) <i>The Role of Media in the Arab Spring</i></p> <p>York (2011) <i>Free Speech in the Age of Twitter</i></p> <p>Recommended: Allen (2011) <i>Connected in Cairo</i></p>	<p>Week Six Forum:</p> <p><b>Discussion Forum: Media and technology</b></p> <p><b>Research Forum: Gaps in your research review</b></p> <p>Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
7	<p>Islam, Christianity, and Judaism in Middle Eastern Cultures</p>	<p>CO-5: Explore and analyze the religions of the Middle East and examine their impact on culture</p> <p>LO-1: Explore and analyze the</p>	<p>Stewart (2013) Chapter 8 and 12</p> <p>Deeb (2006) <i>The Visibility of Religion in Daily Life</i> (excerpt from <i>An Enchanted Modern</i>)</p>	<p>Week Seven Forum:</p> <p><b>Discussion Forum: Religion and culture</b></p> <p><b>Research Forum: Portion of Paper</b></p> <p>Due Thursday</p>



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		<p>relationship between religions and culture in the Middle East</p> <p>LO-2: Analyze the impact of Islamist movements in the Middle East</p> <p>LO-3: Construct a research essay and discuss analysis</p>	<p>Bates and Rassam (2001) <i>Islam as Identity, Islam as Culture</i></p> <p>Armstrong (1998) <i>The Holiness of Jerusalem</i></p>	<p>11:55pm; responses due Sunday 11:55pm</p> <p>Due Sunday 11:55pm</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
8	Case Studies in Development, Globalization, and Middle Eastern Cultures	<p>CO-4: Identify and analyze external influences on cultural identity in the Middle East, including globalization and social media</p> <p>CO-6: Conduct a research project on a topic relevant to the course title and objectives.</p> <p>LO-1: Explore and analyze the impact of globalization and development on cultures of the Middle East.</p> <p>LO-2: Complete a research paper</p>	<p>Stewart (2013) Chapter 9</p> <p>Alsayyad (2008) <i>From Modernism to Globalization</i></p> <p>David (2007) <i>Sand, Rear, and Money in Dubai</i></p>	<p>Week Eight Forum</p> <p><b>Discussion Forum: Case study and lessons learned</b></p> <p><b>Research Forum: Precis of final paper</b></p> <p>Due Thursday 11:55pm; Responses due Sunday 11:55pm</p> <p>Assignment</p> <p><b>Assignment 4: Research paper due.</b></p> <p>Due: Sunday 11:55pm</p>

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## Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

### **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

### **Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may

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not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺

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## Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

### **Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)**

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

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If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

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### Turnitin.com

Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. Typically the course professor will establish a Turnitin.com access code for his/her classes. If the code has not been established, those who wish to use Turnitin.com may ask their professor to establish the code. Please see the Turnitin instructions in the Week One Forum for more details.

### Selected Bibliography

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1986. *Veiled sentiments: Honor and poetry in a Bedouin society*. University of California Press.

Agaoglu, Adalet. 1997. *Curfew: A novel*, trans. John Goulden. University of Texas Press.

Ahmed, Akbar, S. 2003. *Islam under siege: Living dangerously in a post-honor world*. Polity Press.

Arberry, A. J. 1969. *The Koran interpreted*. Macmillan.

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Ayubi, Nazih. 1991. *Political Islam*. Routledge.

Azari, Farah (ed.). 1983. *Women of Iran: The conflict with fundamentalist Islam*. Ithaca Press.

Bates Daniel G. and Amal Rassam. 2000. *Peoples and cultures of the Middle East*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Prentice Hall.

Bogle, Emory C. 1998. *Islam: Origin and belief*. University of Texas Press.

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Brenneman, Robert L. 2007. *As strong as mountains: A Kurdish cultural journey*. Waveland Press.

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Cleveland, William L. and Martin Bunton. 2008. *A history of the modern Middle East*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Westview Press.

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Habermas, Jürgen. 1989. *The structural transformation of the public sphere: An inquiry into a category of bourgeois society*, trans. T. Burger. MIT Press.

Heggy, Tarek. 2003. *Culture, civilization, and humanity*. Frank Cass.

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Held, Colbert C. 1989. *Middle East patterns: Places, peoples, and politics*. Westview Press.

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Hubbard, Mark. 1999. *Warriors of the Prophet: The struggle for Islam*. Westview Press.

Jabbur, Jibrail S. 1996. *The bedouins and the desert. Aspects of nomadic life in the Arab east*. Trans. Lawrence I. Conrad. State University of New York Press.

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