

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
HIS 251- HISTORY OF MIDDLE EAST CIVILIZATION I (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Surveys intellectual, cultural, social, economic, and religious patterns in the civilizations of the Middle East. Covers Semitic, Indo-European, and Turkic-speaking peoples from pre-Islamic to the present. HIS 251 begins in pre-Islamic Arabia and concludes with the decline of the Ottomans. Lecture 3 hours a week.

General Course Purpose

Investigates social, political, religious and cultural institutions of the Middle Eastern states past and present. Designed to provide a wide range of course experiences to meet the needs of the NOVA student population.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Course Objectives

- a) Provide students with an understanding of Middle Eastern social, cultural, economic, political, and religious institutions.
- b) Examine the origins and evolution of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from a Middle Eastern perspective.
- c) Provide students an opportunity to complete an independent study project.
- d) Foster interdisciplinary and critical thinking.

Major Topics To Be Covered

- a) Semitic background
- b) Pre-Islamic Arabia
- c) Life and teachings of Muhammad
- d) Early Muslim conquests
- e) Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates
- f) Decline of the Arab world
- g) Evolution of the Turkic-speaking peoples
- h) Seljuk empire
- i) Crusades
- j) Mongol invasion
- k) Mongol empires
- l) Rise and decline of the Ottomans