

**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. Part I of II.

Lecture 3 hours per 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