This course will examine key developments in the region historically known as the Middle East from the 18th century to the present. Emphasis will be placed on the development and influence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the imperialism of the European powers, the Ottoman Empire, the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Palestinian nationalism, political Islam, the Iran-Iraq War, the politics and economics of oil, the role of women, terrorism, Afghanistan, Iran, and current developments.
HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST  
HIST 227-001RL  

Fall 2008  
Tuesday 1:30-4:15PM  MAC 208  

Contact Information:  
Prof. Sherri West - Office – MAN 117B  
swest@brookdalecc.edu (732) 224-2410  
http://ux.brookdalecc.edu/fac/history/Sherri.htm  

Learning Assistant:  
Karen Sieben (732) 224-2533 office MAN 127  
ksieben@brookdalecc.edu  

Required Textbooks:  
The Middle East and Islamic World Reader  (ME)  
1979: The Year That Shaped the Modern Middle East (Lesch)  

Course Description:  
This course will examine key developments in the region historically known as the Middle East from the 18th century to the present. Emphasis will be placed on internal and external influences including the role of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the imperialism of the European powers, the decline of the Ottoman Empire, the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Palestinian nationalism, political Islam, the Iran-Iraq War, the politics and economics of oil, the role of women, terrorism, Afghanistan, Iraq, and current developments.  

Intended Course Learning Outcomes/Course Goals (Core Competencies):  This course has several important overall objectives. First, the student will gain an appreciation for the political, economic, religious, social, and cultural development of the Middle East from 1700 to the present. (Historical/Societal Analysis) Second, students will learn to write effectively in an expository manner and in a historical context. (Communication) Third, students will develop critical thinking skills by learning to see historical connections over time and space, and by reading, comprehending, and evaluating historical documents and arguments. (Critical Thinking) (Information Literacy) (Technological Literacy) Finally, students will understand and appreciate the enormous diversity of experiences in the Modern Middle East and how these events, both historical and contemporary, affect them today. (Community and Workplace)  

Classroom Discussion:  
Class discussion will be an important component in drawing out the key issues for the course. However, many of the issues are controversial and may provoke strong emotions. I am committed to maintaining a level of mutual respect regardless of personal disagreements on the topics. Words are powerful. I want class members to be comfortable to ask questions and to express their views while being respectful of the opinions of others.  

The course will include lectures, class discussion, some guest speakers with expertise in the region, group exercises, films, and current events. This mix of learning experiences will make for a stimulating and exciting educational experience, but, your preparation and participation is essential to make the class a success.  

The course will be web-enhanced so that we can continue our discussions and the learning outside of class. Participation points may be earned in this way as well as in class discussions. Each week a Topic Outline will be put online and distributed in class. More information will be provided at the first class.
Course Requirements:

Map Exercise – 20 points.
In order to become more familiar with the region, there will be one map assignment. A blank map will be distributed with online resources available to complete the assignment available. Check the Course Calendar for the specific due date.

Reading Quizzes – 5-7 points each (Total points - 50).
There will be a reading quiz at the beginning of each class (excludes the first class, mid-term exam and final exam class meetings). The quiz will have approximately five to seven multiple choice questions or true-false questions from the reading assignment for that week. Each question will be worth one point. The quizzes if missed cannot be made up, so please be on time and avoid absences.

Reading Summaries—Choose 4 @5 points each max. (Total points – 20).
You will be responsible for submitting a reading summary on a primary reading from any 4 of the course topics, though you may submit more for extra-credit points. The reading summary format is explained on the Course Calendar. These summaries are to be handed in at the beginning of class, or posted before class meets online, and will serve as the basis for our discussion of the topic. Late assignments will automatically be deducted 2 points and cannot be handed in beyond one week of the due date.

1979 Project – 2 individual reports, 1 group presentation, and 1 written summary presentation. (Total 50 points).
At the beginning of the semester you will select one of the events mentioned in the text, 1979: The Year That Shaped the Modern Middle East, and research the event, while tracing its development up to today, working individually and with others in your group, and in your online group. You will be responsible for periodic oral and written presentations, with a group presentation scheduled toward the end of the semester. More specific instructions can be found on the Course Calendar. Points will be deducted for late work.

Exams – Mid-term and Final, 75 points each (Total – 150 points)
There will be two exams for the course. The exams will be in the take-home format and will require that students explore the readings and class discussions to answer essay and/or short answer questions. A discussion on the questions from both mid-term and final will be held on the week each is due. See Course Calendar for due dates.

Class Participation - 40 points
Class discussion will be a vital part of the class and the exciting issues of the region will be explored by using not only lectures and guest speakers but group exercises as well which require active participation. Students will be evaluated on their regular attendance, their active role in discussions, both in class and online, and the quality of their comments and questions, along with their participation in group work.

Extra-Credit – 30 points.
Students may earn a maximum of 30 extra-credit points by reviewing videos, attending presentations, or in other assignments approved by the instructor. See the Course Calendar for due dates.
Point-Count System of Evaluation:

Students will achieve grades of A, B+, B, C+, C, D, or F in the course by accumulating enough points for the grade they are seeking by the end of the semester.

The total number of points available during the semester is **360**. The minimum number of points required for each grade is:

- **A** - 305 points (85%)
- **B+** - 290 points (80%)
- **B** - 270 points (75%)
- **C+** - 250 points (70%)
- **C** - 235 points (65%)
- **D** - 200 points (55%)
- **F** - below 200 points

Summary of Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map Exercise</td>
<td>20 pts. max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Quizzes @ 5-7 points each</td>
<td>50 pts. max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979 Presentation</td>
<td>50 pts. max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Reading Summaries @ 5 points</td>
<td>20 pts. max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams, Midterm and Final (75 points ea max)</td>
<td>150 pts. max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>40 pts. max</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>30 pts. max</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>360 points max</strong></td>
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Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades will not be given in this course. A student that has not achieved a passing grade and completed 70% of the course will not be eligible to complete the remainder of the course beyond the last day of the semester. If a medical emergency develops whereby the student feels they will be in jeopardy of not completing the course by the last day of the semester, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor to make all necessary arrangements before the end of the semester.

Monitoring Student Progress

In accordance with college regulations, students will be monitored on a regular basis during the semester. (Your professor will provide you with details.) If you receive a monitoring notice, see your professor immediately. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of their point accumulation in order to know where they stand in the course and to plan to meet the course requirements by the end of the semester.

Student Responsibilities

1. Come to class on time or you will miss important material, quizzes, etc.
2. Do not leave the classroom until class is over or during the break—this is very disruptive to other students and the professor.
3. Save your small talk until after class—you will not be permitted to distract others.
4. Respect your fellow students’ desire to learn and participate.
5. Do not make appointments that conflict with class.
6. Acquiring course materials, getting handouts, and making up material from a missed class, if possible, are the student’s responsibilities. Check my website or see Karen.
7. Plagiarism: First offense, no points for assignment; Second offense, failure for course. [The By-Laws of the Board of Trustees, Section 1.3034(m), authorizes a Student Conduct Code (College Regulation 6.3000R). You should be aware that the Standards of Conduct specifically prohibit cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program. The enforcement procedures regarding the Student Conduct Code are fully explained in the Student Handbook. Any questions concerning this should be directed either to your Student Development Counselor or the Director of Student Life and Activities.]
Appropriate Use Of Technology

1. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off during class time.
2. Students are not permitted to use CD players or computers to play music during class.
3. During lecture or discussion, students are expected to use proper courtesy and refrain from the use of technology.
4. “Chat” and texting is not permitted during class.
5. All e-mail must fully disclose the name of the student, course and section number.
6. Copying and pasting from the internet without reference or purchasing materials online and misrepresenting them as your own work is considered plagiarism and is in violation of the Brookdale student conduct code. A first offense will result in no points and no makeups for the assignment; a second offense will mean failure for the entire course.

Disability Statement

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. If you have a documented disability and would like to request accommodations and/or academic adjustments, contact the Disability Services Office at 224-2730 or TTY 842-4211. Website: http://www.brookdalecc.edu/pages/777.asp

History Department Student Services

Your professor is committed to providing you with many types of assistance including:
1. Learning Assistant: Karen Sieben (MAN 127) 224-2533.
   Email: ksieben@brookdalecc.edu—available for questions or tutoring.
2. Department Web Site—http://www.brookdalecc.edu/fac/history/
3. Study groups—contact Learning Assistant for schedule.
4. Writing and Reading assistance: appropriate labs
5. My Mailbox is located in the Social Science Division central office area- MAN 111.
7. Course materials are available in the department Learning Assistant’s area in MAN 127 or online at the ANGEL website.
8. Faculty office hours can be found on a schedule posted on the faculty member’s office door in the History Department, MAN 117b. I will also announce them at the first class meeting.

Recommended Resources: (Also consult internet and print sources recommended in your texts).

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html
http://www.cmes.arizona.edu/other_res.htm (great directory to all sorts of resources)
http://www.islamicity.org/ (many different resources)
http://www.merip.org/ (good background reports on current issues)
http://www.fpa.org (good background and links)
http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/accessislam/ (for primary schools, but list of resources good)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/ (good for diverse perspectives)
http://www.npr.org/ (excellent current and background information for various topics)
http://www.worldpress.org/ (website for world news)
http://library.uncg.edu/news/ (Bankier Library database good for English language newspapers from the region)