Title: HISTORY OF MODERN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES
Course Code: HST3265
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Sectional
Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.: Elective
Pre-requisites: None
Co-requisites: None
Exclusions: None

Brief Course Description
This course will introduce students to the modern history of the Islamic world. The class will take a broad approach and place the history of the Islamic world within a framework to discuss the diversity of Islamic peoples, the nature of Islamic empires, the encroachment of the West, the emergence of nationalism and the rise of Islamism. Places central to Islamic history such as Egypt, Turkey, Iran, India and Indonesia will receive a significant amount of attention and will be studied from a comparative perspective. Islam in China will also be covered and background will be given on early Islamic civilization.

Aims
The objective of this course will be to give students a fundamental understanding of the history of the modern Islamic world, while also placing developments in the Islamic world within a global context.

Learning Outcomes
Through taking this course, students should
a) Demonstrate an understanding of the basic chronology and themes of modern Islamic societies;
b) Demonstrate the ability to understand and analyze difficult primary sources within their historical context;
c) Demonstrate the ability to synthesize information from various sources in order to construct, and evaluate an historical argument;
d) Demonstrate the ability to discuss primary and secondary texts orally;
e) Demonstrate the ability to write clear and well-organized essays.

Indicative Content
I. The Rise of Islam
   A. Muhammad and the seventh century Middle East
   B. The rise of Arab empires
   C. The internationalization of the religion.

II. Diversity, Sects, Practices and Division
   A. Sunnis
   B. Shi’ites
   C. Sufis

III. Islamic Empires
   A. The characteristics of an empire (comparative)
   B. The Ottomans
   C. The Safavids

IV. The Decline of Empires
   A. Theories of decline (comparative)
B. Decentralization (comparative)
C. European economic penetration

V. Islamic thinkers in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
A. Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani
B. Muhammad Abduh
C. Sayyid Mawdudi
D. Syed Ahmed Khan
E. Deobandi movement
F. Sayyid Qutb

VI. Colonialism
A. Structures
B. Forms of control
C. The idea of the civilizing mission

VII. The Importance of Oil
A. Iraq
B. Saudi Arabia
C. Iran

VIII. Independence
A. Anti-colonial movements
B. The rise of new classes
C. Charismatic leaders
D. Post-colonialism

IX. Issues of modernity
A. Secularism
B. Gender relations
C. Islam in the West
D. Globalization

X. Conflicts and challenges to the status quo
A. Palestine
B. Bosnia
C. Afghanistan
D. Kashmir
E. Islamism

XI. Islam in China
A. Islam on the periphery
B. Connections to the Islamic world
C. Comparisons: Other Muslim minority communities

Teaching Method
Lectures will be designed to give students a basic background in the modern history of the Islamic world. Primary source readings, methodological issues and comparative approaches will be discussed in class.

Measurement of Learning Outcome
a) Essay assignments that require analyzing and synthesizing primary or secondary texts (or both);
b) Regular class discussions that focus on primary and secondary sources within the context of the basic chronology and themes of modern Islamic societies;
c) Occasional quizzes to check reading comprehension.

**Assessment**
Continuous Assessment 100%

**Required Reading**
John L. Esposito, *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam*
Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban*

Supplementary Readings: