Course Title: Understanding the Middle East: A Primer
Course Code: WSP 139
Instructor: Marwan D. Hanania, Ph.D.
Dates and Times: Saturday June 9th-Sunday June 10th, 2018, 10:00am-4:00pm

Course Summary:

This workshop presents the major themes and events that have defined the modern social, economic and political history of the Middle East from the early Islamic periods to the present.

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify the major turning points in modern Middle Eastern history from the founding of Islam to the present.
- Analyze the role played by individual leaders and global powers in shaping the Middle East.
- Understand the major socio-economic and political processes that have shaped the history of the region.
- Understand some of the different scholarly perspectives on key issues such as the legacy of European colonialism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the impact of oil, the rise of nationalism and the role of political Islam in the region.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Score will be determined by student attendance and participation. Students must attend the workshop on both days and actively participate in class to receive credit.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose the Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
Outline:

Introduction: On Studying the History of the Modern Middle East

- Studying the Middle East: Basic Conceptual and Methodological Issues
- The Geography of the Middle East
- The Debate over Orientalism
- Understanding Middle Eastern Studies Today
- Culture, Economy and Civilization in Pre-Islamic Arabia
- The Emergence of Islam

The Founding and Expansion of Islam and Islamic Empires

- The Era of the “Rightly Guided Caliphs”
- The Umayyads
- The Abbasids
- The Incorporation of Arab Lands into the Ottoman Realm
- Ottoman Reform and Centralization
- Ottoman Decline

The Breakup of the Ottoman Empire and the European Colonial Period

- The Capitulations and Increasing Economic Dependence on Europe
- Imperialism and Modernity
- The Young Turk Movement
- World War I and the Arab Revolt
- The Era of the Mandates

Nationalism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

- Herzl and the Inception of Zionism
- Jewish Immigration and the emergence of Palestinian nationalism
- The Politics of the British Mandate
- The 1947-1949 War and the Creation of Israel (1948)

The US and the Middle East

- The 1967 War and its Aftermath
- The Role of Oil in Middle East Politics
- The 1973 War and the Oil Embargo
- The Historical Role of the United States in the Region

Political Islam

- Origins and Major Theorists
- The Muslim Brotherhood
- The Islamic Revolution in Iran
- The Lebanese Civil War and the Rise of Hizbollah
- The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Founding of Hamas
- The Rise of Al-Qa’ida, ISIS, al-Nusra and other extremist organizations

The Arab Spring and Subsequent Civil Wars

- The Origins of the Arab Spring
- Events in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt
- Events in Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq and Syria