

Course Syllabus: History 4317: 1W2: American Foreign Policy and the Modern Middle East

Summer 2026: Sul Ross State International

Dr. Mark Saad Saka

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Course Description

This course is intended to introduce the student to the complex history of the Modern Middle East 1914-present.

Required Reading

**Robert Fisk: “The Great War For Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East”:
Vintage Books, 2005, ISBN # 978-1-4000-7517-1**

Course Requirements

There a number of requirements for this course:

- 1. Email me the first day of the semester and let me know that you have read the syllabus and clarify any questions that you may have of the course. Also, I need to know that you have obtained the book and that you are ready to begin reading.**
- 2. The course can be located on Blackboard, you must have access to a computer device and be able to access blackboard. Under the Course Content, the syllabus can be found. Under the link, “An Introduction to the Modern Middle East” this is good background the national and ethnic geography of the region.**
- 3. Then follow the Content link and there are thirteen reading assignments over the book, each reading assignment covers a nation or region in the Middle East, for instance, the first three chapters covers Afghanistan, the next couple, both Iraq and Iran, then the Armenian genocide, the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Algeria, the Gulf Wars, and 9-11 and its immediate aftermath.**
- 4. Read the chapters for each of the writing assignments and answer the questions in well thought original essays of 750 to 1000 words.**

5. This is a large book of roughly 1000 pages, you cannot wait until the final week of a five-week class to turn in your assignments. Therefore, I have assigned due dates, roughly two to three written assignments a week, due every Tuesday. June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Thus will be a reading and writing intensive course so do not fall behind. Late assignments will result in a one letter grade reduction per day.
6. Each written assignment is worth 100 points and thus you have 1,300 points; 90% A; 80% B, 70% C, 60% D.

Student Learning Outcomes

The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills of a History Major

Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.

Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

Course Policies:

Contacting the Instructor: The instructor's email is the preferred method of contact. Msaka@sulross.edu. Please contact me only through the Sul-Ross email

as I do not respond to private email such as yahoo, gmail, Hotmail, etc. This is for yours and my security.

I do, however, have a backup email, mark.saka1@yahoo.com. This is a backup in the event of a malware attack or if for some other reason the system goes down. I rarely check it as I want you to only use my yahoo account for emergencies. I check my Sul Ross email regularly. Please stay in contact if you are ill or cannot make class for a legitimate reason.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or for another course and/or professor.
- Turning in another person's work as one's own.
- Copying from professional works or internet sites without citations.
- Collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

ADA Statement

SRSU Disability Services, SRSU is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans Disability Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick at (830) 279—3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde Texas 78801. Kbiddick@sulross.edu

Library Information: The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through the SWTJC website. <https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document delivery from the Alpine campus.

SRSU Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based or distance education courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complain are located in the student handbook.