

Countries, Cultures, & Current Issues

Tuesday 9:00 – 10:45AM. Paradise Campus

Spring 2020 February 04 – April 14

Instructor: Muree Reafs – mreafs@cox.net



Spring 2020. This is the 2nd semester of the study of Africa.

Following the course content format below, we will begin a focus on the countries of North Africa.

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, & Other territories of the region.

Emphasis will be on the modern countries, their populations, governments, regional ties & current issues.

Spring: North Africa

Course Content: Overview of the region. Learning about the land through geography, natural environment; People through their ethnicities, languages, religions & material cultures. History, government, political systems, economies, demographics, health & social systems, political tensions, alliances, & conflicts.

As always, there are important & interesting events past & present, personalities and issues which will be developed in more depth as relevant to the country/region & class interests.

Power Point presentations are created by the instructor for each country/region. Handouts include maps, news articles, background topics. Discussions & contributions among participants.

Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr's DVD: Africa's Great Civilizations, will be a supplemental audiovisual. AND, as always, music of local artists will start the morning.

Class members are encouraged to share their recommended readings, knowledge about & experiences.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Feb 04 - Introductions & Overview of North Africa.

Week 2: Feb 11 - Regional Geography & Historical highlights.

Week 3: Feb 18 - North African Countries & Territories

Week 4: Feb 25- Algeria

Week 5: Mar 3 - Egypt

Week 6: Mar 10 - Libya

Mar 17 - Spring Break

Week 7: Mar 24 - Morocco

Week 8: Mar 31 - Tunisia

Week 9: Apr 07 - Additional discussion

Week 10: Apr 14 - Wrap up

Countries covered in the previous 5 years:

Overview of the continent of Africa.

South Asia: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran.

Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, & Tajikistan.

Caucasus: Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, North Caucasus Region.

Central & Eastern Europe: Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, East Germany, Belarus, Moldova & Ukraine.

Russia: Russia.

Nordic & Baltic: Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. (Iceland)

The Balkans: Greece, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovakia.

South América: Perú, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brasil.

East Asia: Eastern Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan, Korea S & N, Taiwan.