

### Group 6

#### COURSE I: HIS1MN106 WEST ASIAN STUDIES-I

**Course description:** This course explores the rich tapestry of West Asia, examining its geography, religions, languages, and ethnicities that have shaped a vibrant yet complex region.

Programme	BA History				
Course Code	HIS1MN106				
Course Title	West Asian Studies-I				
Type of Course	Minor				
Semester	I				
Academic Level	100-199				
Course Details	Credit	Lecture per week	Tutorial per week	Practical per week	Total Hours
	4	4	-	-	60

## COURSE OUT COME

CO	CO Statement	Cognitive Level*	Knowledge Category#	Evaluation Tools used
CO1	Analyze the physical geography of West Asia, including the major mountain ranges, deserts, rivers, and seas, and explain how these features have shaped the region's history and culture	An	P	Seminar
CO2	.Explain the historical development and core beliefs of the major religions in West Asia, including Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam	U	C	Group discussions
CO3	Evaluate the importance of natural resources, such as oil and water, in West Asia and their impact on the region's politics and economy.	E	P	Seminar
CO4	Compare and contrast the major countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean, considering their geographic features, political systems, and cultural identities	U	F	Group discussions
CO5	Identify the major linguistic groups in West Asia (Arabic, Persian, Turkish, etc.) and discuss the cultural and political significance of language in the region.	U	F	Presentation
CO6	Evaluate the challenges and opportunities of cultural exchange and interfaith dialogue in West Asia	Ap	P	Seminar
	* - Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (Ap), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C)# - Factual Knowledge(F) Conceptual Knowledge (C) Procedural Knowledge (P) Meta cognitive Knowledge (M)			

Module	Unit	CONTENT	Hrs	Marks
			60	70
1	<b>OVERVIEW OF THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF WEST ASIA</b>		11	18
	1	West Asia or Middle East	2	
	2	Mountain Ranges and Deserts	2	
	3	Importance of Rivers and Sea	1	
	4	Climate and Weather patterns	1	
	5	Region's resources	1	
	6 7	Major Countries of the Arabian Peninsula- Saudi Arabia, The Persian Gulf Emirates, Yemen, Iran, Iraq.  Major countries of the Eastern Mediterranean- Egypt, T Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Palestine.	2  2	
		<b>Reading List:</b>  1. David S. Sorenson, <i>An Introduction to the Modern Middle East: History, Religion, Political Economy, Politics</i>  2. Richard J. Huggett, <i>Physical Geography: the key concepts</i>  3. Stephen Longrigg , <i>The Geography of the Middle East</i>		
II	<b>RELIGION IN THE WEST ASIA</b>		<b>11</b>	18
	6	Zoroastrianism	2	
	7	Judaism	2	

	8	Christianity	2	
	9	Islam	2	
	10	Druze	1	
	<b>11</b>	Baha'i-faith	2	
	<b>Reading</b>	<p>1. Karen Armstrong, <i>A history of God: The 4,000 Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and - Islam</i></p> <p>2. Karen Armstrong, <i>Islam A Short History</i></p> <p>3. Kenneth E. Bowers, <i>God Speaks Again: An Introduction to the Baha'i Faith</i></p> <p>4. P. Oktor, <i>An Introduction to Zoroastrianism</i></p> <p>5. Philip K. Hitti, <i>The origins of the Druze People and Religion with Extracts from Their Sacred writings</i></p>		
<b>III</b>	<b>LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY OF THE REGION</b>		12	14
	11	Arabic	2	
	12	Persian (Farsi)	2	
	13	Turkish	2	
	14	Kurdish	2	
	15	Hebrew	2	
	16	Aramaic	2	
	Reading List	<p>1. Bernard Lewis, <i>The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2000 Years.</i></p> <p>2. Dan Issac Slobin, <i>Language in the Middle East: Themes and Variations</i></p> <p>3. David McDowall, <i>Modern History of the Kurds</i></p> <p>4. Frederick E. Grenspahn, <i>An Introduction to Aramaic</i></p>		
<b>IV</b>	<b>VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS AS THE REFLECTION OF THE REGION'S CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>		14	20
	17	Arabs	2	
	18	Persians	2	
	19	Turks	2	

	20	Kurds	2	
	21	Assyrians	2	
	22	Armenians	2	
	23	Azeris	2	
	<b>Reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Albert Hourani, <i>A History of the Arab Peoples</i></li> <li>2. David Yaaghoubian, <i>Ethnicity, Identity and the Development of Nationalism in Iran</i></li> <li>3. Michael Eppel, <i>The Kurds: A Modern History</i></li> <li>4. Ronald Grigor Suny, <i>The Armenians: A History</i></li> </ol>		
V		<p><b>Open Ended</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and label various physical features of West Asia in the map provided such as mountain ranges, rivers, deserts and bodies of water.</li> <li>• Religious Site Virtual Tour: Students could explore and virtually visit significant religious sites in West Asia, such as the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the Kaaba in Mecca, or the Zoroastrian Fire Temples in Iran. They could create virtual tours or presentations to share with their class mates, highlighting the architectural features, religious significance and historical context of each site.</li> <li>• Multimedia Exploration: Watch movies, listen music or read books in different West Asian languages with sub titles or translations. This exposes learners to the natural rhythm and cadence of the language.</li> </ul> <p>Organize a debate or discussion on topics related to ethnicity and identity in West Asia. Encourage students to research different perspectives and engage in respectful dialogue about issues such as cultural assimilation, minority rights and nationalism</p>	12	

Note: The course is divided into five modules, with four having total 23 fixed units and one open-ended module with a variable number of units. There are total 48 instructional hours for the fixed modules and 12 hours for the open-ended one. Internal assessments (30 marks) are split between the open-ended module (10 marks) and the fixed modules (20 marks). The final exam, however, covers only the 23 units from the fixed modules

Mapping of COs with PSOs and POs:

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PSO5
CO1	3	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	1	2	1
CO2	2	1	1	3	2	2	3	-	1	2	3
CO3	2	1	1	3	2	2	3	-	1	2	3
CO4	2	-	2	3	3	2	-	1	3	2	3
CO5	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	3
CO6	3	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	3	2	3

Correlation Levels:

Level	Correlation
-	Nil
1	Slightly / Low
2	Moderate / Medium
3	Substantial / High

Assessment Rubrics:

- Quiz / Assignment/ Quiz/ Discussion / Seminar
- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam (70%)

Mapping of COs to Assessment Rubrics :

	Internal Exam	Assignment	Project Evaluation	End Semester Examinations
CO 1	✓	✓		✓
CO 2	✓	✓		✓

CO 3	✓	✓		✓
CO 4	✓	✓		✓
CO 5	✓			✓
CO 6		✓		✓

Ist Semester B A (CUFYUGP) Degree Examination 2024

HIS1MN106 WEST ASIAN STUDIES-I

Maximum Time: 2hours

Maximum Marks: 70

Section A

(Answer All. Each Question carries 3 marks)

(Ceiling: 24 Marks)

1. Briefly explain why West Asia is also known as the Middle East.
2. Identify two major mountain ranges in West Asia and their significance.
3. Describe the importance of rivers and seas for the region's development.
4. What is the dominant climate pattern in West Asia?
5. Differentiate between two Arabian Peninsula countries based on a geographical feature
6. What is the central belief of Zoroastrianism?
7. Briefly explain the concept of monotheism in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
8. Describe the origin and core beliefs of the Druze faith.
9. What is the significance of the Baha'i faith in the region?
10. Choose one ethnic group (Assyrians, Armenians, Azeris) and explain their historical contribution to West Asia's cultural heritage

Section B

(Answer All. Each Question carries 6 marks)

(Ceiling: 36 Marks)

11. Discuss how the physical features of West Asia (mountains, deserts, rivers) have shaped the way people live and interact with the environment.
12. Analyze the potential challenges and opportunities presented by the region's climate and weather patterns.

13. Explain the impact of natural resources (oil, water) on political and economic dynamics in West Asia.
14. Discuss the role of religion in shaping social structures and cultural expressions in West Asia.
15. Analyze the potential for interfaith dialogue and its challenges in the context of West Asia's religious diversity.
16. Describe the significance of language (Arabic, Persian, Turkish) in shaping cultural identity within West Asia.
17. Explain the concept of ethnicity and how different ethnic groups (Arabs, Kurds, Armenians) contribute to the region's cultural heritage.
18. Discuss the challenges and opportunities for cultural exchange among the diverse ethnic groups in West Asia

### **Section C**

**(Answer Anyone. Each Question carries 10 marks)**

(1x10)

19. Analyze the major factors that have contributed to the complex political landscape of West Asia. Consider the role of geography, religion, ethnicity, and natural resources in your explanation.
20. Discuss the potential for future cooperation and development in West Asia. What are the key challenges to overcome, and how can the region's diverse population work towards a more peaceful and prosperous future?