

## GEC Goals and Assessment Plan

### GEC GOALS/RATIONALE

**Diversity:** International issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and world.

Students exhibit an understanding of economic, political, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

#### I. Goals and Objectives

**Economics 437 is a GEC course in Arts and Sciences, Social Diversity in the non-Western World Category.** Economics 437 has been designed with the general learning objectives of this category in mind. The readings, class discussions, written assignments and examinations will further students' abilities:

- To understand the social, cultural, economic, and geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East region.
- To assess the role of globalization on shaping the policies of the Middle East region.
- To recognize the role of social and economic diversity in shaping economic development in the region.

**Economics 437** fits directly into this category by addressing these main learning objectives. Economics 437 uses economic methodology, reflecting the discipline it represents, to quantify the impact of geopolitical conditions and economic policies in the well-being of the people of the Middle East.

- The course will address various dimensions of international and global issues associated with the Middle East through discussion and analysis that is cognizant of social and economic differences and similarities, diversity, and complexity.
- Students will be required to synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to the study of a wide range of dimensions associated with the Middle East.
- Students will be required to apply knowledge and insights to the comparative study of contemporary economic issues in the Middle East.
- A range of theoretical/methodological approaches will be discussed and analyzed that will provide students with the scientific tools of inquiry to examine and gain knowledge associated with issues in the Middle East.
- The course will bring into focus the integration of social, cultural, economic, geopolitical, and historical dynamics that will enrich and widen the students' understanding of the Middle Eastern region.

**Economics 437** draws on economics principles and applied research to study contemporary economic issues in the Middle East. Examples of issues that will be investigated include:

- Labor Market and Human Resource Development in the Middle East by studying the role of women, youth unemployment, and income inequality in the region.
- The structure of government and the role of foreign investment in shaping the economic development of the region.

II. GEC Goals Attainment Survey

This survey is intended to provide feedback to your instructor about the extent to which this course achieves the goals of its GEC category. Please fill out this short survey and return it.

**Legend:**

Strongly Disagree	1
Somewhat Disagree	2
Neutral – Neither Agree nor Disagree	3
Somewhat Agree	4
Strongly Agree	5

This course helped me in understanding the impact of the economic and political environment on the current situation in the Middle East.

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

This course gave me a deeper appreciation of how differences in culture and geography lead to differences in ways of living.

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

This course caused me to reconsider my opinions about the contemporary issues in the Middle East.

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

Has this course changed the way you look at the issues facing today's world?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

What have you learned that will be helpful to you as an American and a global citizen?

### III. Method of Assessment

The course will be assessed in two main ways: (1) results of the survey above; and (2) students' mastery of the material. At the conclusion of every quarter, students will complete the survey above. The instructor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies will review the results and make necessary revisions to the course. Also, students' knowledge of the contemporary issues in the Middle East, in light of the GEC Goals, will be measured by a written midterm, a written final exam, in-class presentations and a term paper.

### IV. Plan for Course Continuity

Copies of the course syllabus, including GEC Goals and Objectives and the survey will be retained in the Economics Department office and provided to teaching faculty and graduate students for future use.

### V. Plan for Course Improvement

Summary of the student surveys will be reported to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. In consultation with the D.U.S., instructors will make modifications to the course content or pedagogy to better achieve the GEC goals.