

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

## I. Goals and Objectives

**Economics 557 is a GEC course in Arts and Sciences, Social Diversity in the Non Western Category.** Economics 557 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 Middle East region.
- To recognize the role of social and economic diversity in shaping economic development in the region.

**Economics 557** fits directly into this category by addressing these main learning objectives. Economics 557 uses economic methodology, reflecting the discipline it represents, to quantify the impact of geopolitical conditions and economic policies in the well being of people of Middle East.

1. The course will address various dimensions of international and global issues associated with Middle East through discussion and analysis that is cognizant of social and economic differences and similarities, diversity, and complexity.
2. Students will be required to synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to the study of a wide range of dimensions associated with Middle East.
3. Students will be required to apply knowledge and insights to the comparative study of contemporary economic issues in Middle East.
4. 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 Middle East.
5. 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 557** draws on economics principles and applied research to study contemporary economic issues in 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, income inequality in the region.
- The structure of government and the role of foreign investment in shaping economic development in 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 political and economic environment on the current situation in 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 way of living.

1                                  2                                  3                                  4                                  5

This course caused me 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? How?

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

### III. Method of Assessment

Students' knowledge of the contemporary economic issues in the Middle East will be measured by written midterm, written final exam, in-class presentation and a term paper. Also, students will complete survey above at conclusion of the quarter.

### IV. Plan for course continuity

Copies of the course syllabus, including GEC Goals and Objective and Survey will be retained in the Economics Department office and provided to teaching faculty and graduate students.

### V. Plan for course improvement

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