

# **ENVS / HIST / PS 295Q/395Q – Sustainability and Collapse in the Middle East**

## **Unit 1 Short Paper**

**Due:** At the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 28th

**Format:** Double-spaced, 600+ words (not including footnotes and bibliography)

### **Citation Style:**

ENVS 295/395 students: APA ([Purdue APA Style Guide](#))

HIST 295/395 students: Chicago Footnote-Bibliography ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#))

PS 295/395 students: Chicago Author-Date ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), Author-Date Tab)

### **Directions:**

Students should respond to the following prompt in at least 600 words, and include a creative title. Despite the relatively short length, a clear thesis and supporting arguments are key to a good paper. Any materials utilized should be cited according to the format listed for your section of the course.

### **Paper Prompt:**

Answer the following questions: Should the Middle East be organized into nation-states? If yes, why? In no, why not? Is there an alternative form of organization that might work better? Support your argument with evidence from course readings.

### **Purpose:**

The unit papers are designed to invite reflection upon and better absorption of the material that you have learned during the unit and to practice writing arguments from new disciplinary perspectives.

### **Criteria:**

1. Is the paper at least 600 words long? Did you give your paper a creative title? (10%)
2. Is there a clearly identifiable thesis? (30%)
3. Have you used evidence to support your thesis? (30%)
4. Have you made supported inferences from the evidence? (20%)
5. Have you written well (spelling, grammar, citations, style)? (10%)

# **ENVS / HIST / PS 295Q/395Q – Sustainability and Collapse in the Middle East**

## **Unit 2 Short Paper**

**Due:** At the beginning of class on Friday, October 7th

**Format:** Double-spaced, 600+ words (not including footnotes and bibliography)

### **Citation Style:**

ENVS 295/395 students: APA ([Purdue APA Style Guide](#))

HIST 295/395 students: Chicago Footnote-Bibliography ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#))

PS 295/395 students: Chicago Author-Date ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), Author-Date Tab)

### **Directions:**

Students should respond to the following prompt in at least 600 words, and include a creative title. Despite the relatively short length, a clear thesis and supporting arguments are key to a good paper. Any materials utilized should be cited according to the format listed for your section of the course.

### **Paper Prompt:**

Answer the following questions: Apply the ideas of cultural sustainability to a current society (pick one and identify it). What features suggest that this society will succeed? What features suggest that it will fail/collapse? What similarities does it have with past societies in either category? Support your argument with evidence from course readings.

### **Purpose:**

The unit papers are designed to invite reflection upon and better absorption of the material that you have learned during the unit and to practice writing arguments from new disciplinary perspectives.

### **Criteria:**

1. Is the paper at least 600 words long? Did you give your paper a creative title? (10%)
2. Is there a clearly identifiable thesis? (30%)
3. Have you used evidence to support your thesis? (30%)
4. Have you made supported inferences from the evidence? (20%)
5. Have you written well (spelling, grammar, citations, style)? (10%)

# **ENVS / HIST / PS 295Q/395Q – Sustainability and Collapse in the Middle East**

## **Unit 3 Short Paper**

**Due:** At the beginning of class on Monday, October 17th

**Format:** Double-spaced, 600+ words (not including footnotes and bibliography)

### **Citation Style:**

ENVS 295/395 students: APA ([Purdue APA Style Guide](#))

HIST 295/395 students: Chicago Footnote-Bibliography ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#))

PS 295/395 students: Chicago Author-Date ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), Author-Date Tab)

### **Directions:**

Students should respond to the following prompt in at least 600 words, and include a creative title. Despite the relatively short length, a clear thesis and supporting arguments are key to a good paper. Any materials utilized should be cited according to the format listed for your section of the course.

### **Paper Prompt:**

Consider the fictional Middle Eastern country, The Levantine Republic of Catan (LRC). The country's political elites are concerned about resource availability for the LRC's growing population, particularly with respect to water, energy and food procurement. Write a persuasive essay to the leaders of the country outlining your advice about sustainable resource management. What should be done to preserve access to water, energy and/or food? If you anticipate any particularly troublesome issues, explain why they are sticking points while you propose a possible (even if not ideal) solution. Support your arguments with evidence from course readings.

LRC's resource profile:

- The country is currently using natural gas and oil for most of its energy, 97% of which is imported from its regional neighbors (some are allies, others are not as friendly).
- Arable land is limited to the bottoms of three large river valleys; 75% of this land is dedicated to growing alfalfa and wheat for cattle feed.
- The majority of the LRC's freshwater is obtained from a fossil aquifer that is projected to be depleted by 2025. The country has several additional small freshwater aquifers located along its Mediterranean coastline.
- The LRC shares a sizeable border with a neighboring state in the midst of a protracted civil war; approximately 750,000 refugees have crossed the border into the LRC in the last five years.
- The country's demographic and economic indicators are typical for the region: The LRC's population of 10 million is growing at a moderate rate of 2% per year. The LRC is classified as a Middle Income Country with a GDP per capita of approximately \$6000 per year. Official unemployment hovers around 15%, with higher rates for youth and a significant informal labor market.

- Good diplomatic relations with Western powers
- Strong military, good education
- Other things?

**Purpose:**

The unit papers are designed to invite reflection upon and better absorption of the material that you have learned during the unit and to practice writing arguments from new disciplinary perspectives.

**Criteria:**

1. Is the paper at least 600 words long? Did you give your paper a creative title? (10%)
2. Is there a clearly identifiable thesis? (30%)
3. Have you used evidence to support your thesis? (30%)
4. Have you made supported inferences from the evidence? (20%)
5. Have you written well (spelling, grammar, citations, style)? (10%)

# **ENVS / HIST / PS 295Q/395Q – Sustainability and Collapse in the Middle East**

## **Unit 4 Short Paper**

**Due:** At the beginning of class on Wednesday, October 26th

**Format:** Double-spaced, 600+ words (not including footnotes and bibliography)

### **Citation Style:**

ENVS 295/395 students: APA ([Purdue APA Style Guide](#))

HIST 295/395 students: Chicago Footnote-Bibliography ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#))

PS 295/395 students: Chicago Author-Date ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), Author-Date Tab)

### **Directions:**

Students should respond to the following prompt in at least 600 words, and include a creative title. Despite the relatively short length, a clear thesis and supporting arguments are key to a good paper. Any materials utilized should be cited according to the format listed for your section of the course.

### **Paper Prompt:**

Describe an example of commodification of culture, in the context of cultural heritage tourism. How has this culture been commodified, and for what purpose? What are the perceived benefits for the community in question? What potential dangers do you see? How might the commodification affect the culture into the future? Is there anything you would change about the representation of culture in your example?

### **Purpose:**

The unit papers are designed to invite reflection upon and better absorption of the material that you have learned during the unit and to practice writing arguments from new disciplinary perspectives.

### **Criteria:**

1. Is the paper at least 600 words long? Did you give your paper a creative title? (10%)
2. Is there a clearly identifiable thesis? (30%)
3. Have you used evidence to support your thesis? (30%)
4. Have you made supported inferences from the evidence? (20%)
5. Have you written well (spelling, grammar, citations, style)? (10%)

# **ENVS / HIST / PS 295Q/395Q – Sustainability and Collapse in the Middle East**

## **Unit 5 Short Paper**

**Due:** At the beginning of class on Monday, November 14th

**Format:** Double-spaced, 600+ words (not including footnotes and bibliography)

### **Citation Style:**

ENVS 295/395 students: APA ([Purdue APA Style Guide](#))

HIST 295/395 students: Chicago Footnote-Bibliography ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#))

PS 295/395 students: Chicago Author-Date ([Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), Author-Date Tab)

### **Directions:**

Students should respond to the following prompt in at least 600 words, and include a creative title. Despite the relatively short length, a clear thesis and supporting arguments are key to a good paper. Any materials utilized should be cited according to the format listed for your section of the course.

### **Paper Prompt:**

Explain how a variety of political, historical and environmental forces have come together to create the current humanitarian/refugee crisis in the Middle East.

### **Purpose:**

The unit papers are designed to invite reflection upon and better absorption of the material that you have learned during the unit and to practice writing arguments from new disciplinary perspectives.

### **Criteria:**

1. Is the paper at least 600 words long? Did you give your paper a creative title? (10%)
2. Is there a clearly identifiable thesis? (30%)
3. Have you used evidence to support your thesis? (30%)
4. Have you made supported inferences from the evidence? (20%)
5. Have you written well (spelling, grammar, citations, style)? (10%)