Brief Course Description
This course will introduce students to the modern history of the Middle East. The class will take a thematic approach and place Middle Eastern history within a framework to discuss the rise and fall of empires, the presence of colonialism, the emergence of nationalism, the importance of oil and the development of Islamism. With the intention of making connections between local concerns and global issues, the course will also focus on particular places in the region such as Egypt, Iran and Israel/Palestine.

Aims
The objective of this course will be to give students a fundamental understanding of modern Middle Eastern history, while also placing developments in the region within a global context.

Learning Outcomes
1) Ability to identify and explain the primary global forces that have influenced the nature and direction of modern history in the Middle East.
2) Knowledge of the basic characteristics of the modern Middle East which form its modern regional identity.
3) Understanding of the variety of political systems and socio-economic structures that have developed across the Middle Eastern region.

Indicative Content
1) The Rise of Islam
   A) Muhammad and the 7th-century Middle East
   B) The Rise of Arab Empires
   C) The Internationalization of Islam

2) Gunpowder Empires
   A) The Characteristics of an Empire
   B) The Ottomans
   C) The Safavids

3) Ottoman Decline
   A) Theories of Decline
   B) Decentralization
   C) European Economic Penetration
4) The Eve of Modernity
   A) Napoleon in Egypt
   B) Religious Revivalism in Arabia
   C) Muhammad Ali and Emergence of New Types of Political Organization

5) The Stirrings of Nationalism
   A) The Idea of a National Identity
   B) Ottoman Reforms
   C) European Dominance

6) World War and its Aftermath
   A) The End of the Empire
   B) Carving up the Region
   C) New Nation-states

7) The Question of Palestine
   A) The People of Palestine
   B) Zionism
   C) British intentions
   D) The Creation of Israel

8) The Importance of Oil
   A) Oil’s global significance
   B) The Saudi connection
   C) OPEC

9) Independence
   A) Secularism and Socialism
   B) The Non-Aligned Movement
   C) The Place of Islam
   D) The Role of the United States
   E) The Cold War

10) War and revolution
   A) Israel and the Consequences of 1967 and 1973
   B) The Iranian Revolution
   C) The Iran/Iraq War

11) The New World Order
   A) Iraq in Kuwait
   B) Post-Afghanistan and the Rise of Islamism
   C) September 11th and its Aftermath

**Teaching Method**
Lectures will be designed to give students a basic background in Middle Eastern history. Primary source readings, methodological issues and comparative approaches will be discussed
in class.

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

1) Research paper involving students’ independent analysis of a particular issue of modern Middle Eastern history, focusing particularly on the connection between the internal development of the region and broader global forces and changes.

2) Examination testing students’ grasp of the principal events, personages, and processes of the modern history of the various countries of the Middle Eastern region.

3) In-class discussion of primary sources materials, with a focus on understanding the different perspectives reflected through the different voices of the various documents.

**Assessment**

Continuous Assessment  60%
Examination  40%

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


