

SPRING 2020

**THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE
SPRING 2020 COURSE LIST**

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

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REGISTRATION DATES

BARNARD

Week 1 (returning students): Monday, November 18 - Friday, November 22, 2019
Week 2 (returning students): Monday, December 9 - Friday, December 13, 2019
Week 3 (returning and new students): Monday, January 6 - Friday, January 10, 2020
Week 4 (change of program): Tuesday, January 21 - Friday, January 31, 2020

CC AND SEAS (UNDERGRAD)

Week 1: Monday, November 18 - Friday, November 22, 2019
Week 2: Monday, December 9 - Friday, December 13, 2019
Week 3: Tuesday, January 7 - Friday, January 10, 2020
Week 4: Monday, January 13 - Friday, January 17, 2020
Week 5 (change of program): Tuesday, January 21 - Friday, January 31, 2020

GSAS

Week 1: Monday, November 25 - Wednesday, 27, 2019
Week 2: Monday, December 9 - Friday, December 13, 2019
Week 3: Tuesday, January 7 - Friday, January 10, 2020
Week 4: Monday, January 13 - Friday, January 17, 2020
Week 5 (change of program): Tuesday, January 21 - Friday, January 31, 2020

GS

Week 1: Monday, November 18 - Friday, November 22, 2019
Week 2: Monday, December 9 - Friday, December 13, 2019
Week 3: Tuesday, January 7 - Friday, January 10, 2020
Week 4: Monday, January 13 - Friday, January 17, 2020
Week 5 (change of program): Tuesday, January 21 - Friday, January 31, 2020

SIPA

Week 1 (returning students): Tuesday, January 14 - Friday, January 17, 2020
Week 2 (new students): Thursday, January 16 - Friday, January 17, 2020
Week 3 (change of program): Tuesday, January 21 - Friday, January 31, 2020

END OF CHANGE OF PROGRAM PERIOD

All Schools: Friday, January 31, 2020

LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS

Barnard, CC, GS, GSAS, SIPA: Tuesday, February 25, 2020
SEAS: Thursday, March 26, 2020

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the course directory.

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

ANTHROPOLOGY

ISLAMIC LAW

GR5282

Brinkley Messick

F 10:10am - 12:00pm

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 11193

An introductory survey of the history and contents of the Shari'a, combined with a critical review of Orientalist and contemporary scholarship on Islamic law. In addition to models for the ritual life, we will examine a number of social, economic, and political constructs contained in Shari`a doctrine, including the concept of an Islamic state, and we also will consider the structure of litigation in courts. Seminar paper.

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

GR6084

Nadia Abu el-Haj

R 4:10-6:00pm

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 11457

ARCHITECTURE

ARAB MODERNISM(S)

A4385

Yasser Elsheshtawy

M 11:00am - 1:00pm

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 11356

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

ART HISTORY

ASSYRIAN ART

GR8105

Zainab Bahrani

R 4:10-6:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 12933

IN FRONT OF THE OBJECT

GR8800

Avinoam Shalem

M 10:10-12:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 12939

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

ARABIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY GLOBAL DIMENSIONS

GU4226

Muhsin Al-Musawi

R 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14444

This course draws a map of Arab thought and culture in its multiple engagements with other cultures. It works globally along two lines: a theoretical one that accommodates conceptualizations of self-narrative in relation to shifting categories of center and margin; and a thematic one that selects a number of Arabic autobiographical texts with strong thematic concerns that cut across multiple cultures. Although Europe sounds at times more conspicuous in early 20th century autobiography, the Afro-Asian and Latin American topographical and historical itinerary and context are no less so, especially in writings we associate with societal and cultural transformations. More than historical accounts, these intellectual itineraries speak for the successes and failures of the secular ideology of the Arab nation-state. They convey the struggle of intellectuals-- as self-styled leaders, for an ideal state on the ruins of the past. The course studies a number of autobiographical works; memoirs and reminiscences that are meant to rationalize and reproduce a writer's experience. Probably self-censored, these serve nevertheless as trajectories for a secular journey rather than one from denial to affirmation.

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Staunchly established in modernity and its nahdah paradigms, most of these writings are secular itineraries that rarely end in a search for faith. They are the journeys of a generation of Arab intellectuals who are facing many crises, but not the crisis of faith. They provide another look at the making of the Arab intelligentsia- and probably the Afro-Asian and Latin American one, since the early 20th century, and help us discern not only achievements on the level of education and public service , but also the mounting discontent with failures that have been wrapping the formation of the nation state.No prior knowledge of Arabic language is required.

COLD WAR ARAB CULTURE

GU4231

Muhsin Al-Musawi

W 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14433

This course studies the effects and strategies of the cold war on Arab writing, education, arts and translation, and the counter movement in Arab culture to have its own identities. As the cold war functioned and still functions on a global scale, thematic and methodological comparisons are drawn with Latin America, India and Africa.

STAGING THE EARLY MOD MEDITERR

UN3454

Patricia E Grieve

T 10:10am - 12:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14163

This course examines, in sixteenth and seventeenth century Spain and England (1580-1640), how the two countries staged the conflict between them, and with the Ottoman Empire; that is, how both countries represent national and imperial clashes, and the concepts of being “Spanish,” “English,” or “Turk,” as well as the dynamic and fluid identities of North Africa, often played out on the high seas of the Mediterranean with Islam and the Ottoman Empire. We will consider how the Ottoman Empire depicted itself artistically through miniatures and court poetry. The course will include travel and captivity narratives from Spain, England, and the Ottoman Empire.

FRENCH

HISTORY

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

COLONIAL CITIES

GR8907

Zeynep Celik

R 2:10-4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 12942

ISLAMIC STUDIES

MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

CLIMATE AND EMPIRE

GU4049

Sonia Ahsan

F 12:10 - 2pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call number: 25305

Climate change destabilizes the ontic certainty of this world, time, and history. This course in MESAAS will introduce students to the literature on climate change and its relationship to ontology, religion, violence, politics, and gender. We will explore the resilience and limitations of various theoretical approaches as they relate to empirical cases. Students will become familiarized with important arguments that have been advanced to explain climate change in its more recent incarnations in the Middle East and Asia. How have different trajectories of understanding climate change led to different kinds of political cultures and governing institutions? Have some qualities of the “environment” or “climate” remained the same throughout history and across the globe? What is the role of colonialism in modern understandings of climate change? The core of this course will seek to develop a mode of conceptualizing the present by rendering relevant geological time in addition to historical time, earth’s history in addition to world’s history.

The course begins with the question of how the “climate” has been historically and ethnographically conceptualized in various intellectual trajectories of human sciences. We consider how religion is connected to environmental change, how the “human” and “non human” are conceptualized in various ontologies, and how religious norms and ethics enact environmental practices. We interrogate the everyday sociality of climate adaption and how climate conflict informs social, political, and environmental citizenship. The course concludes by contemplating the creative ways of being in this new world. We study the innovative forms of cosmopolitan neo-humanism (post- humanism) that emerge from the specter of environmental change.

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

SUFISM, SHARI'A, AND POLITICS

GR5231

Wael Hallaq

T 4:10pm - 6:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 13914

This seminar is geared toward beginning graduate students. Arguably, Sufism and Shari`a constituted the two central domains of premodern Islamic culture and “civilization” (assuming this latter is an unproblematic designation). A central domain is recognized as one that defines other domains. If a domain becomes central, “then the problems of other domains are solved in terms of the central domain—they are considered secondary problems, whose solution follows as a matter of course only if the problems of the central domain are solved” (C. Schmitt). This seminar aims to introduce the fundamental concepts and (briefly) histories of both Sufism and Sharia, with a focus on how the former interacted with the latter; how Sufism produced traditions and institutions; and the role it played, along with the juristic class, in the political landscapes of Islam. By necessity, then, the seminar moves from a coverage of Sufi thought and praxis, to community and institution building, to political activism (or inactivism, which is seen here as a move toward the political or ethical). The coverage, deliberately tilted toward Sufism, aims to be historical and considerably chronological, moving from the earliest Islamic period to late modernity, including a brief account of the migration of Sufi entities to the West. In keeping with the claim of Sufism as a central domain, we will examine how this phenomenon, together with the Shari`a, rendered the other domains subsidiary to their imperatives. The subordinate idea here is also to try to map out the symbiotic relationship of the two domains, and isolate for analysis contestations and antagonisms. Although the sources – both primary [in translation] and especially secondary – are somewhat underdeveloped theoretically, class discussions will call upon the help of various theories in politics (e.g., C. Schmitt, Foucault, et al.) and anthropology (mainly regarding habitus, embodiment, and tradition), among others.

PSYCHOANALYSIS, IDENTITY, CULT

GR8206

Joseph A Massad

T 4:10pm - 6:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14179

This graduate seminar aims to introduce students to Freud and Freudian Psychoanalysis and the integration of both in critical theory. The main question the seminar aims to study is the

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

formation of identity in psychoanalysis and how it relates to civilization and culture more generally, whether in its gender, sexual, or national configurations. The influence of Social Darwinism and Developmentalism more generally on Freudian psychoanalysis will be discussed as well as the importance of related temporal concepts deployed in psychoanalysis' insistence on the divide between primitivism and culture. We will discuss a number of major scholarly works engaging Freud's theories on all these questions and their relevance to social and cultural analysis.

MUSIC

SOUNDING ISLAM

GU4425

Alessandra M Ciucci

R 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 12590

POLITICAL SCIENCE

ISRAELI NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

GU4848

Charles D Frielich

M 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 15797

Ever since its establishment, Israel has confronted an external environment of nearly unremitting hostility. Repeated wars, perpetual hostilities at lower levels, the failed peace processes with the Palestinians and Syria, and even the "cold" peace with Egypt and Jordan, have reinforced this image. As a result, national security has been at the forefront of Israeli life for six decades. Israel has responded by building a disproportionate national security establishment and by developing a "hunkering down" decision making style. Due to the importance of the Middle East, from the Cold War to this day, as well as its own unique circumstances, Israel has also become an important player in the international arena, far beyond its size. The course is designed for those with a general interest in Israel and the Middle East, especially those interested in national security affairs, military strategy, foreign policy and decision making, students of comparative politics and practitioners/future practitioners, with an interest in "real world" international relations and national security. It focuses on the basic tenets of Israeli foreign and defense strategy, the threats and opportunities facing Israel today, structures and processes of Israeli national security decision making, including their strengths

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and weaknesses, and the role of the peace process in Israel's national security strategic thinking.

The course presumes reasonable familiarity with Israel and the Middle East. For those in need of further background, a number of basic texts are suggested below.

RELIGION

RELIGIONS OF THE IRANIAN WORLD

GU4202

Derek Mancini-Lander

T 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14389

This course is a seminar open to undergraduate and graduate students who wish to gain an understanding of the diverse religious traditions of the Iranian world from ancient to contemporary times. This subject has often been organized around the assumption that a continuous tradition of an Iranian national religious heritage can be identified and traced through from ancient, Zoroastrian to medieval Islamic traditions, and then ultimately to contemporary Shi'ite and minority Zoroastrian and Baha'i traditions. This perspective has presumed that such a legacy has been constitutive and determinative for Iranians' sense of national identity and for their core religious world-view. From the outset, this course aims to problematize and ultimately overturn this approach, first of all, by historicizing the very idea of Iran and by challenging the assumption that an Iranian identity was even recognizable before the twentieth century, much less constitutive of some unbroken traditions of religious thought or practice. While there may be some persistent threads in language, mythic heritage, and religiosity that one can observe throughout the Iranian plateau and Central Asia across the centuries, it is more useful to examine these as part of a larger matrix of exchanges with adjacent cultural and religious systems. Students will examine a series of interrelated themes that are key to the studies of religion in the Iranian world. While the course does cover material that progresses roughly chronologically from the first millennium BCE to contemporary times, it is not a systematic historical survey. Each week will focus on a cluster of scholarly works and related primary sources on focused topics related to the successive religious traditions in Iran, the Mazdaen dualist traditions, Islam, and Baha'ism. The various weeks will address overarching themes such as Imperial religion, protest and messianic movements, migration, diasporic religiosity, and the relationship between cosmology and history. In the process we will address specific topics such as Zoroastrianism and Mazdaen religiosity outside the imperial cult, the Mithras mystery cult of Rome, Mazdaen cosmology and piety in Islam, Islamic astrology and millenarianism, the rise of Iranian Shi'ism, Gujarati Zoroastrians, religion.

SIPA

EMERGING FINANCIAL MARKETS: BRAZIL, MEXICO, INDIA, CHINA AND TURKEY

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

U6636
 Fernando Sotelino
 M 4:10pm - 6:00pm
 Location: 409 IAB
 3 points
 Call Number: 10752

This course examines the workings of emerging financial systems and their efficacy as a pillar for sustained economic development. The course methodology is to study a major financial system chosen for anchor (Brazil's) in comparison with those of four other G-20 developing economies: Mexico, Turkey, India and China. Aspects examined include the role of domestic private, public sector and foreign banks; credit availability and cost; systemic resilience; dependence on and access to foreign capital; and breadth and depth of domestic capital markets.

INTELLIGENCE & FOREIGN POLICY

U8142
 Peter Clement
 R 2:10pm - 4:00pm
 Location: 1302 IAB
 3 points
 Call Number: 10772

The major national security controversies during the last decade have all concerned intelligence. Critics blamed U.S. intelligence agencies for failing to prevent the 9/11 attacks, and then for missing the mark on Iraqi capabilities before the war. In response, Congress ordered a sweeping reorganization of the intelligence community, and scholars began to revisit basic questions: What is the relationship between intelligence and national security? How does it influence foreign policy and strategic decisions? Why does it succeed or fail? This seminar provides an overview of the theory and practice of U.S. intelligence. It details the sources and methods used by collectors, the nature of intelligence analysis, and the relationship between intelligence agencies and policymakers. It also contains a short history of the U.S. intelligence community and evaluates the ongoing efforts to reform it. Finally, it discusses the uneasy role of secret intelligence in a modern democracy.

MODERN IRAN: FROM MONARCHY TO ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

U8588
 Lawrence G Potter
 W 2:10pm - 4:00pm
 Location: TBA
 3 points
 Call Number: 10837

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

An introduction to the culture, politics and international relations of Iran which will explore the country's transition from the 19th to the 21st century. Topics include continuity and change in traditional social structure, the conflict between clergy and state and the modernization of Iran under the Pahlavi shahs (1925-79). The role of women will be explored. The roots of the Iranian revolution will be examined, and an assessment made of the present Islamic Republic. The role of Iran in international affairs, including the course of U.S.-Iranian relations, will also be considered. Sources will be multidisciplinary and include historical works, literature and films.

ON GENDER & VIOLENCE: UNDERSTANDING THE FEMALE FIGHTER

U6363

Nimmi Gowrinathan

T 4:10pm - 6:00pm

Location: TBA

1.5 points

Call Number: 10723

This seminar is designed to produce critical thinking and analytical writing on the intersections of Gender & Violence. The increased presence of women in groups like the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) and the Islamic State, as well as the expanded role of women in the United States military raises new questions about women's political agency, both on, and off, the battlefield. While more traditional narratives, and subsequent humanitarian interventions, often frame women as peacebuilders, the historic positioning of women within militant groups challenges both existing theories of radicalization, along with the gendered assumptions that inform them. The goal of this course is to provide a deeper, more analytical, understanding of the lived experience of women as their lives intersect with violence in multiple ways. Among other subjects, the course will cover theories on the formation of women's political identities, the politics of sexual violence, the role of humanitarian intervention, and the complicated agency of women within repressive contexts. The readings are drawn from relevant academic disciplines, but include nonfiction narrative literature and policy-oriented analysis in order to situate each debate in multiple spheres of influence.

PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE ARAB WORLD

U6716

Safwan M Masri

T 4:10pm - 6:00pm

Location: TBA

1.5 points

Call Number: 10756

This course will reflect upon the "unfinished revolutions" and the failures of the Arab Spring. The experience of Tunisia—before, during, and after the revolution—will be used as a prism through which to explore how social, political, economic, and religious dynamics in the Arab world contribute to (or threaten) prospects for democratization. Special emphasis will be placed on

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post-colonial educational and social policies and the role they played in determining the divergent trajectories of Arab states. Themes explored will include sectarianism and national identity, militarism and the deep state, civil society activism and workers' and women's rights, and Islamism and religious reform.

REFUGEES, PUBLIC POLICY, & DEVELOPMENT

U6350

Daniel Naujoks

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 12490

Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. As sizeable inflows of refugees are relatively recent, the Turkish government, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders had to develop political, public policy, and social responses to the large inflow of newcomers in a short period of time. Offering a deep immersion into the processes, challenges, and impacts of designing public policies for Syrian refugees and their host communities, Refugees, Public Policy, and Development in Turkey is the first ever course taught in SIPA's innovative Global Immersion format. The course begins with an immersion component that takes place over ten days during the winter break 2019/2020. Based in Istanbul, with site visit to other cities, the course offers a mixture of seminar-style discussions, interactions with UN and civil society experts, site visits, and a role-play simulation on refugee camps. In the Spring 2020 term, four sessions in New York conclude the course and deepen the lessons learned from these experiences. The course introduces students to the key notions, norms, and policy responses in the context of forced migration. Bringing together legal, sociological, and development perspectives, the course advances participants' understanding of how different actors in Turkey have established legal and policy regimes with regard to healthcare, education, and labor market participation. The course emphasizes the agency of refugees and gender differences in the experiences and effects. It addresses the role of multilateralism, international relations, as well as international and regional cooperation. Participants will learn about the implications of human rights and legal statuses, as well as links to humanitarian and development discourses, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNCONVENTIONAL WARRIORS

U6398

Dipali Mukhopadhyay

M 6:10pm - 8:00pm

Location: TBA

3 points

10729

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

In this course in international security policy, students will take a closer look at a host of non-state armed actors whose origins can be traced back to pre-statal politics and international relations but whose presence can be felt very tangibly in 21st century geopolitics. Violence has always been a principal currency of sociopolitical interaction. We tend to associate unconventional forms of war-making with the post-September 11th era of geopolitics; in fact, a number of unconventional warriors have wielded violence before and, then, alongside states for centuries. A great deal of today's attention, both scholarly and policy-oriented, tends to focus in particular on terrorists and insurgents; but a host of other non-state armed actors (from bandits, mercenaries, and mafia to druglords, warlords, and militias) also operate as what Vadim Volkov called entrepreneurs in the field of violence. Their methods, motivations, and interests have evolved over time. Many of the factors that led to their emergence historically have ceased to exist, but these actors have adapted and transformed in ways that keep them relevant to this day.

SOCIOLOGY

WOMEN'S STUDIES

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

ANTHROPOLOGY

WOMEN, GENDER POL-MUSLIM WORLD

UN3465

Lila Abu-Lughod

TR 2:40pm - 3:55pm

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 11189

Practices like veiling that are central to Western images of women and Islam are also contested issues throughout the Muslim world. Examines debates about Islam and gender and explores the interplay of cultural, political, and economic factors in shaping women's lives in the Muslim world, from the Middle East to Southeast Asia.

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF WAR

UN3828

Nadia Abu el-Haj

W 2:10-4:00pm

Location TBA

4 points

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

Call Number: 11458

ART HISTORY

ROME BEYOND ROME

UN2119

Francesco de Angelis

MW 2:40pm - 3:55pm

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 13606

This course will approach the art of the Roman empire from two vantage points. In its first half, it will consider it from the inside. Through a regional survey of the art and architecture produced in the provinces of the Roman empire between the 2nd c. BCE and the 4th c. CE, it will focus on the mechanisms by which models emanating from Rome were received and adapted in local contexts (so-called "Romanization"), as well as on the creative responses that the provincials' incorporation into the empire elicited. The second half of the course will consider the art of the Roman empire from the outside, i.e., from the perspective of its neighbors in the Middle East and in Africa, as well as its self-proclaimed successors and imitators. On the one hand, we will see how ancient states such as the kingdom of Meroë and the Parthian empire, or regions such as the Gandhara, interacted with the visual culture of Rome and its empire. On the other, we will explore the degree to which the classical roots of the modern colonial empires in Asia, Africa, and the Americas both managed and failed to shape the visual cultures that these empires developed. Discussion section required.

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES (BARNARD)

COLLOQUIUM ON MAJOR TEXTS

UN1399 - Section 001

Wael Hallaq

M 4:10pm - 6:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 13904

UN1399 - Section 002

Rachel McDermott

M 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 00443

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

UN1399
Mana Kia
W 2:10pm - 4:00pm
Location: TBA
4 points
Call Number: 14295

Readings in translation and discussion of texts of Middle Eastern and Indian origin. Readings may include the Qur'an, Islamic philosophy, Sufi poetry, the Upanishads, Buddhist sutras, the Bhagavad Gita, Indian epics and drama, and Gandhi's Autobiography.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ETHNICITY AND RACE

ARABS IN LITERATURE & FILM

UN3970
Nathalie Handal
M 2:10pm - 4:00pm
Location: TBA
4 points
Call Number: 50613

This course explores contemporary Arab American and the Arab Diaspora culture and history through literature and film produced by writers and filmmakers of these communities. As a starting historical point, the course explores the idea of *Arabness*, and examines the Arab migration globally, in particular to the U.S., focusing on three periods: 1875-1945, 1945-early 1960s, and late 1960s-present. By reading and viewing the most exciting and best-known literary works and films produced by these writers and filmmakers, students will attain an awareness of the richness and complexity of these societies. Additionally, students will read historical and critical works to help them have a deeper understanding of these creative works. Discussions revolve around styles and aesthetics as well as identity and cultural politics. Some of the writers the class will cover include, Wajdi Mouawad, Diana Abu Jaber, Amin Maalouf, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Anthony Shadid, Hisham Matar, and Adhaf Soueif.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

THE OTTOMAN PAST IN THE GREEK PRESENT

UN3110
Dimitrios Antoniou
T 2:10pm - 4:00pm
Location: TBA
3 points

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

Call Number: 13950

Almost a century after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the Ottoman past lives on in contemporary Greece, often in unexpected sites. In the built environment it appears as mosques, baths, covered markets, and fountains adorned with Arabic inscriptions. It also manifests itself in music, food, and language. Yet Ottoman legacies also shape the European present in less obvious ways and generate vehement debates about identity, nation-building, human rights, and interstate relations. In this course, we will be drawing on history, politics, anthropology, and comparative literature as well as a broad range of primary materials to view the Ottoman past through the lens of the Greek present. What understandings of nation-building emerge as more Ottoman archives became accessible to scholars? How does Islamic Family Law—still in effect in Greece—confront the European legal system? How are Ottoman administrative structures re-assessed in the context of acute socio-economic crisis and migration?

STAGING THE EARLY MOD MEDITERR

UN3454

Patricia E Grieve

T 12:10pm - 2:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14163

This course examines, in sixteenth and seventeenth century Spain and England (1580-1640), how the two countries staged the conflict between them, and with the Ottoman Empire; that is, how both countries represent national and imperial clashes, and the concepts of being “Spanish,” “English,” or “Turk,” as well as the dynamic and fluid identities of North Africa, often played out on the high seas of the Mediterranean with Islam and the Ottoman Empire. We will consider how the Ottoman Empire depicted itself artistically through miniatures and court poetry. The course will include travel and captivity narratives from Spain, England, and the Ottoman Empire.

HISTORY

ISLAM & EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

UN3061

Adam Kosto

M 10:10am - 12:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 12082

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

This course explores the encounter between Europe, broadly conceived, and the Islamic world in the period from the seventh to the thirteenth centuries. While the Latin Christian military expeditions that began in the late eleventh century known as the Crusades are part of this story, they are not the focus. The course stresses instead the range of diplomatic, commercial, intellectual, artistic, religious, and military interactions established well before the Crusades across a wide geographical expanse, with focal points in Iberia and Southern Italy. Substantial readings in primary sources in translation are supplemented with recent scholarship. [Students will be assigned on average 150-200 pages of reading per week, depending on the difficulty of the primary sources; we will read primary sources every week.]

CONST/DEMOCRACY - THE MID EAST

UN3942

Rashid I Khalidi

T 10:00am - 12:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 12168

Prerequisites: See undergrad seminar section of department's website.

Where the establishment of sustainable democracies is concerned, the Middle East has perhaps the poorest record of all regions of the world since World War II. This is in spite of the fact that two of the first constitutions in the non-Western world were established in this region, in the Ottoman Empire in 1876 and in Iran in 1906. Notwithstanding these and other subsequent democratic and constitutional experiments, Middle Eastern countries have been ruled over the past century by some of the world's last absolute monarchies, as well as a variety of other autocratic, military-dominated and dictatorial regimes. This course, intended primarily for advanced undergraduates, explores this paradox. It will examine the evolution of constitutional thought and practice, and how it was embodied in parliamentary and other democratic systems in the Middle East. It will examine not only the two Ottoman constitutional periods of 1876-78 and 1908-18, and that of Iran from 1905 onwards, but also the various precursors to these experiments, and some of their 20th century sequels in the Arab countries, Turkey and Iran. This will involve detailed study of the actual course of several Middle Eastern countries' democratic experiments, of the obstacles they faced, and of their outcomes. Students are expected to take away a sense of the complexities of the problems faced by would-be Middle Eastern democrats and constitutionalists, and of some of the reasons why the Middle East has appeared to be an exception to a global trend towards democratization in the post-Cold War era.

WAR AND SOCIETY SINCE 1945

UN2953

Paul Chamberlin

MW 11:40am-12:55pm

Location: TBA

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

4 points

Call Number: 12060

This course surveys the second half of the most violent century in human history. It examines the intersection of war and human society in the years after 1945 by focusing on two monumental and intertwined historical processes: Decolonization and the Cold War. While the conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union would fail to produce any general wars between two belligerents, this superpower rivalry would help to make the global process of decolonization in the developing a particularly violent affair.

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

UN3000

Marc Van de Mieroop

R 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 12080

This seminar studies the ancient Persian (Achaemenid) Empire which ruled the entire Middle East from the late 6th to the late 4th centuries BCE and was the first multi-ethnic empire in western Asian and Mediterranean history. We will investigate the empire using diverse sources, both textual and material, from the various constituent parts of the empire and study the different ways in which it interacted with its subject populations. This course is a seminar and students will be asked to submit a research paper at the end of the semester. Moreover, in each class meeting one student will present part of the readings.

Grading: participation (25%), class presentation (25%), paper (50%).

INTER-DEPARTMENT SEMINAR

NOBILITY & CIVILITY II

UN3921

Rachel Chung

W 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 11106

Prerequisites: One semester of Contemporary Civilizations or Literature Humanities, or an equivalent course, and the instructor's permission.

A team-taught multicultural, interdisciplinary course examining traditions of leadership and citizenship as they appear in the key texts of early Indian, Islamic, Far Eastern, and Western

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

civilizations. One goal is to identify and examine common human values and issues evident in these texts while also recognizing key cultural differences

MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

BABYLON - BAGHDAD: AN URBAN HISTORY

UN3003

Nathanael P Shelley

T 2:10pm - 4:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 00706

This seminar investigates the metropolitan site of Babylon-Baghdad as the focal center and built environment at the center of 4000 years of social history. Through a consideration of the historical and archaeological sources available, the course proceeds chronologically and surveys the urban history of the site from its ancient origins, c. 2000 BCE, all the way to the present day. The survey explores how the communities residing in the city shaped, and were shaped by, the city. Students in this course will gain a familiarity with the major periods of Middle Eastern History — Ancient, Islamic, and Modern — and a detailed awareness of the metropolitan region of Babylon-Baghdad. In addition to the historical survey and engagement with primary sources and theoretical works, students will develop a research paper on a specialized topic of interest associated with the city. This investigation requires a synthesis of the ideas discussed in class, and presents an opportunity to investigate a specific feature or characteristic of the city in detail. All assigned readings for the course will be in English. Primary sources will be provided in translation. The course assumes that you have taken at least one introductory course on either the Ancient Near East or the Islamic Middle East to use as a foundation for further development. Students without a background in the Middle East may take the course if they are willing to do a little preparatory reading. The course meets once a week and sessions are two hours long.

CONFLICTS: REGIONS AND RELIGIONS

UN2004

Gil Anidjar

MW 10:10am - 11:25am

Location: TBA

3 points

Call Number: 17756

Prior to “conflict resolution,” there is conflict. But what is conflict and how do we understand it? This introductory lecture course proposes to explore the history and geography of “Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies” by way of the concept of “conflict.” We will inquire

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into the nature of conflict as well as into the kinds of conflicts that operate, or seem to operate, perhaps even to structure, the “regions and religions” that are within and under the purview of the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies. We will attend to the solidity and fragility of geographic divisions (regional and trans regional conflicts), their history (modern / premodern, colonial / pre- and post-colonial), the pertinence of religions (religious strife and violence), their relation to political associations (religion and politics, religion and nationalism) and to other social and/or economic divisions (race, class, gender). We will interrogate the analytic and descriptive value of keywords like war, enmity, dispute, division, partition. We will also reflect on disciplinary tensions and divisions toward an understanding and perpetuation of conflict. Finally, we will think about the possibility and impossibility of “speaking with the enemy.”

CONTEMP ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

UN2008

Matthew L Keegan

TR 11:40am - 12:55pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 00633

Lecture and recitation. No previous study of Islam is required. The contemporary Islamic world studied through freshly translated texts; recorded interviews with religious, political, and intellectual leaders; and films highlighting the main artistic and cultural currents. Topics include religion and society, religion and politics, issues of development, theories of government, gender issues, East-West confrontation, theatre, arts, films, poetry, music, and the short novel.

CRITICAL THEORY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

UN1001

Hamid Dabashi

TR 11:40am - 12:55pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14344

The purpose of this foundational course is to introduce Columbia undergraduate students, in the context of their Global Core curriculum, to the seminal field of critical theory. The historical domain of this course is within the last century and its geographical spectrum is global. European critical thinkers are included in this course but not privileged. Thinkers from Asia, Africa, Europe, North, South, and Latin America, are examined here in chronological order and in equal democratic footing with each other. This course as a result is decidedly cross-cultural, one step forward towards de-alienating critical thinkers from around the globe and the issues they address without pigeonholing them as something “other” or “different.” The course is designed and offered in the true spirit of the “Global Core.” The purpose of the course is to

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reach for the common denominator of serious critical thinking about the fate of our humanity and the health of our social relations in an increasingly fragile world—where the false binaries of “the West” and “the Rest” no longer hold. The roster of critical thinkers we will examine is by no means exhaustive but representative. Any number of other critical thinkers can be added to this roster but none of those we will examine can be excluded from them. The course is divided into thirteen successive weeks and for each week a number of seminal, original, and groundbreaking texts are identified. Each week we will examine selected passages from these texts. The course is designed as a lecture course, and my lectures are based on the totality of these texts but students will be assigned specific shorter passages to read.

ETHNICITY, RACE, IDENTITY IN THE PRE-MODERN MIDDLE EAST

UN2000

Nathanael P Shelley

W 12:10pm - 2:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 00705

This seminar investigates the concepts of ethnicity, race, and identity, in both theory and practice, through a comparative survey of several case studies from the Pre-Modern history of the Middle East. The course focuses on symbols of identity and difference, interpreting them through a variety of analytical tools, and evaluating the utility of each as part of an ongoing exploration of the subject. The survey considers theories of ethnicity and race, as well as their critics, and includes cases from the Ancient World (c. 1000 BCE) through the Old Regime (c. 1800 CE). Students in this course will gain a familiarity with major theories of social difference and alterity, and utilize them to interpret and analyze controversial debates about social politics and identity from the history of the Middle East, including ancient ethnicity, historical racism, Arab identity, pluralism in the Islamic Empire, and slavery, among others. In addition, students will spend much of the semester developing a specialized case study of their own on a historical community of interest. All of the case studies will be presented in a showcase at the end of the semester. All assigned readings for the course will be in English. Primary sources will be provided in translation. The course meets once a week and sessions are two hours long.

THE INTERSECTIONAL POLITICS OF RELIGION

UN3046

Sayori Ghoshal

T 12:10pm - 2:00pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 16150

The Islamic veil controversy in France, the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, the Kashmir lockdown, the lynching of Dalits in India – all seem to be connected through the ideas of ‘religion’, and

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certain religious identities as the basis for violence. What is the understanding of the religious that seems to be the operative factor in these events? Is it a singular concept of religion or are there different connotations of this category? For instance, how do we understand religion when it bifurcates the women's movement between Western 'secular' women and non-Western 'Muslim' women? Is it the same concept when we identify 'religion' as the basis for the harmonious coexistence of Hindus and Muslims among certain non-elite communities in India? In this course, we ask if it even possible to understand, 'religious' events in the modern political world, *without* asking what other categories implicitly inform our notion of the religious – such as, gender, caste, culture, race and historiography. We move beyond the strict dichotomy, of religion and secularism, as something given and unproblematic. Drawing from examples and events in modern South Asia as well as other postcolonial contexts, we attempt to respond to the concepts, contradictions, and dilemmas that accompany the question of when and how the religious becomes the political in the modern world.

Our weekly sessions will be devoted to reading texts from various disciplines and analyzing how the main argument is formulated and how that relates to a critique of the concept of religion in modern South Asia. Some weeks the scholarly texts will be supplemented by primary texts/case studies that will serve as direct demonstration of the problems that will be explored in the course. The engagement with sources from various disciplines will expose us to interdisciplinary content as well as diverse methods of critical analysis and argumentation. It will also help acquire the practice of identifying the central argument of the text, understand how the broad argument is actually formulated through smaller steps, and achieve the analytic skill to critically locate that single argument within a larger body of scholarship.

PALESTINIAN - ISRAELI POLIT/SOC

UN3042

Joseph A Massad

TR 2:40pm - 3:55pm

Location: TBA

4 points

Call Number: 14175

The History of the Jewish Enlightenment (Haskala) in 19th century Europe and the development of Zionism through the current "peace process" between the state of Israel and the Arab states and the Palestinian national movement. Provides a historical overview of the Zionist-Palestinian conflict to familiarize undergraduates with the background of the current situation. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

RETHINKING MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

UN3260

Timothy Mitchell

MW 11:40am - 12:55pm

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

Location: TBA
 4 points
 Call Number: 13905

This course examines a set of questions that have shaped the study of the politics of the modern Middle East. It looks at the main ways those questions have been answered, exploring debates both in Western academic scholarship and among scholars and intellectuals in the region itself. For each question, the course offers new ways of thinking about the issue or ways of framing it in different terms. The topics covered in the course include: the kinds of modern state that emerged in the Middle East and the ways its forms of power and authority were shaped; the birth of economic development as a way of describing the function and measuring the success of the state, and the changing metrics of this success; the influence of oil on the politics of the region; the nature and role of Islamic political movements; the transformation of the countryside and the city and the role of rural populations and of urban protest in modern politics; and the politics of armed force and political violence in the region, and the ways in which this has been understood. The focus of the course will be on the politics of the twentieth century, but many topics will be traced back into developments that occurred in earlier periods, and several will be explored up to the present. The course is divided into four parts, each ending with a paper or exam in which participants are asked to analyze the material covered. Each part of the course has a geographical focus on a country or group of countries and a thematic focus on a particular set of questions of historical and political analysis.

URBAN SPACE AND CONFLICT IN MIDDLE EAST

UN3331
 Khatchig Mouradian
 TR 1:10pm - 2:25pm
 Location: TBA
 3 points
 Call Number: 14061

This course explores how civil war, revolution, militarization, mass violence, refugee crises, and terrorism impact urban spaces, and how city dwellers engage in urban resilience, negotiate and attempt to reclaim their right to the city. Through case studies of Beirut (1975-present), Baghdad (2003-present), Cairo (2011-present), Diyarbakir (1914-present), Aleppo (1914-present), and Jerusalem (1914-present), this course traces how urban life adjusted to destruction (and post-conflict reconstruction), violence, and anarchy; how neighborhoods were reshaped; and how local ethnic, religious, and political dynamics played out in these cities and metropolises. Relying on multi-disciplinary and post-disciplinary scholarship, and employing a wealth of audiovisual material, literary works, and interviews conducted by the instructor, the course scrutinizes how conflicts have impacted urban life in the Middle East, and how civilians react to, confront, and resist militarization in urban spaces.

THE INTERSECTIONAL POLITICS OF RELIGION

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).

UN3046
Sayori Ghoshal
Tu 12:10-2pm
Location: TBA
3 points
16150

The Islamic veil controversy in France, the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, the Kashmir lockdown, the lynching of Dalits in India – all seem to be connected through ‘religion’, and the notion that certain religious identities can become the basis for violence. What is the understanding of the ‘religious’ that is operative in these events? Does it have a singular meaning or are there different connotations to the category of religion?

In this course, we ask if it is even possible to understand ‘religious’ events in the modern political world without asking what other categories inform the question of the religious – such as, gender, caste, culture, race and historiography. Moving beyond the strict dichotomy, of religion and secularism, we explore when and how the religious becomes the political in the modern world.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

RELIGION

MUSLIMS IN DIASPORA

UN3407
Derek Mancini-Lander
TR 11:40am - 12:55pm
Location: TBA
4 points
Call Number: 14368

Consideration of controversies surrounding mosque-building, headscarves, honor killing, and other publicized issues that expose tensions surrounding citizenship and belonging for Muslims in North America and Europe. Exploration of film and other media representations of Muslims in the West. There will be additional meeting times for film screenings.

WOMEN’S STUDIES

Please be aware that this is not a complete list. Students should also search the [course directory](#).