Course Description
American impressions of the Middle East often focus on conflict. And yet, Middle Eastern wars of the later 20th century have been far less destructive than Europe's 20th century wars. Most Middle Eastern conflicts have been proxy wars and many were part of the US-USSR Cold War. The east-west lines of the Cold War are familiar; it divided Europe and in some cases divided single countries. But what did the Cold War mean in the Third World? How did it play out in the Middle East, and how did it shape the histories of that region and its peoples? How much did policies formed in Washington and Moscow determine the range of possible options for the people and leaders of smaller countries? Did Middle Eastern countries harness the superpower Cold War to their own concerns and regional conflicts, or were they merely superpower pawns? Finally what are the legacies of the Cold War in the region today?

This course will not definitively answer these questions. We will, however, keep such questions in mind, because they will help us to transcend the easy generalizations and stereotypes that often impede our understanding of this region and its peoples. The class is suitable for students with no prior coursework on the region and its history, though some prior knowledge would be helpful.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part covers the years between post-World War II independence and the 1967 war, and the second part covers developments since 1967.

Required books (available at the bookstore, and on reserve at SSH.)

Course Structure and Requirements
The class will meet three days a week and regular attendance is required.

Assignments
There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination.

Grades are as follows:
Mid-term examination 35%
Final examination 65%
Important Dates

30 October  
8 December, 11:30-2:30

Mid-Term Exam  
Final Exam

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Introduction

September 25  
Introduction.

Week 1

September 28  
Geography and Definitions.

September 30  
Ottoman rule, WWI, and the post-war settlement  
Cleveland, ch. 8-9, Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, ch. 2-3.

October 2  
Discussion.

Week 2

October 5  
Colonial Rule in the Middle East.

October 7  
World War and Independence.  
Cleveland, ch. 10,11,12, Smith, ch. 4.

October 9  
Discussion.

Week 3

October 12  
1. Independence and Conflict  
The Birth of Israel and the Aftermath of the 48 War.

October 14  
Social Upheaval and the End of the Politics of Notables.  

October 16  
Discussion.

Week 4

October 19  
The Ascension of the United States and the Eisenhower Doctrine.

October 21  
Nationalism and the Great Powers: Muṣaddiq, Iran, and the CIA.  

October 23  
Discussion. Handout: Exam Questions
Week 5
October 28  The Baghdad Pact and Cold War Maneuvering in the Middle East.
October 30 Midterm.

Week 6  2. The Middle East Since 1967.
November 2  The 1967 War and its immediate aftermath.
November 4  Black September, Nasser's death, and the Rise of Hāfīz al-Asad
           Cleveland, ch. 17, Smith, ch. 8, Shlaim, 218-283, Weiner, 311-333.
November 6 Discussion.

Week 7  November 9  Sadat, the expulsion of the USSR, and the 73 War.
November 11 Veteran's Day Holiday
November 13  The PLO in Lebanon and the Lebanese Civil War.
           Cleveland, ch. 18-19, Smith, ch. 8, Weiner, 373-387, Shlaim, 284-324.

Week 8  November 16  The Iranian Revolution and Cold War Confrontation in Central Asia.
November 18  The Israeli Invasion of Lebanon and the US Role.
           Cleveland, ch. 20-21, Weiner, 413-4917, Smith, ch. 9, Shlaim, 377-423
November 20 Discussion.

Week 9  November 23  Gulf Wars of the 1980s and 90s.
November 25  The First Intifāda and Peace Negotiations.
           Cleveland, ch. 22-23, Weiner. 491-503, Smith, ch. 10-11, Shlaim, 502-63
November 27 Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10  November 30  The Passing of the Old Guard and the End of Peace Negotiations
December 2  Neo-Imperialism and America in Iraq, 2003-
December 4  Conclusions and Prospects. Final Exam handout.
           Cleveland, Epilogue ch. 24-25, Smith,12 (final pages).

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, 8 December 11:30-2:30