The twentieth century was an ideological century everywhere, and the Middle East was no exception. The purpose of this seminar is to explore the most important ideologies and movements found in the Middle East during the century, looking at their origins and consequences, and to examine their relationship with world history and their influence on Middle Eastern history.

The seminar will be divided into three parts. The first part will examine the state of the Middle East in 1900, and the most important ideology at that time, nationalism. The second part looks at socialism and at the avowedly socialist or quasi-socialist states of the period after World War II. The third part of the seminar looks at Islamism. The origins of Islamism in the nineteenth century are examined, as is Islamism’s relationship to both nationalism and socialism. The seminar then looks at a sample of the more important movements, from the Muslim Brothers and the Iranian revolution to the Afghan mujahidin and--finally--al-Qaeda.

Texts
Students are assumed to be familiar with the background to the periods and areas covered. Students wishing to refresh their memories may wish to consult:

- Ira M Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*
- William L Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*


Note that where a reference to www.ciaonet.org is given, it is necessary to access the site from the AUC server or another university server that has subscribed to CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online).

This course is fundamentally a reading course, and there is plenty of reading. The readings for each week are indicated below. In general, the main texts each week are either on reserve in the library or photocopied in the course Reader (Artistic). Supplementary readings for some weeks are shown at the end as “Also.” I will not expect you to have done these supplementary readings, but recommend them for anyone who wants to go a little further into things. These readings are not on reserve, but please--for everyone’s sake--do not disappear with them.
**Assessment of Students**

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 10%
- Reading responses: 45%
- Research paper: 45%

*Participation* means more than just sitting in class: if you have not done the reading, there is little point in coming to class just to sit there. Note, however, that more than three weeks of absence for any reason (including illness etc.) may result in an F.

*Reading responses* are required for most weeks’ reading. Unless it is specifically stated that a response paper is not needed for the following week, it is needed. Each reading response must be

- about two-three pages long, and properly typed, documented and proof-read. Do *not* write ten pages.
- analytical. Mere summary of the readings is not acceptable, and will receive a very low grade.
- handed in at the start of each class. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances whatsoever, but your worst response paper will be ignored when calculating the final grade.

The *Research paper* should be about ten pages long and is due on or shortly after May 16, as will be arranged. Before starting your paper, you must discuss your topic with me, and obtain my written agreement to a 300-400 word abstract and proposed bibliography. The *latest* date for abstracts / bibliographies is Thursday, April 1. Incomprehensibility or sloppy presentation of the paper will be penalized.

**Notes**

1. The university policy on cheating and plagiarism applies in this class. I always report cases of either to the Academic Integrity Committee.
2. Changes to assignments, times, dates, etc. will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to make sure that you learn of any such announcement which might have been made during a class you miss.
Sections of the course

Week 1, Sunday Feb 8: Initial considerations
No texts

Section 1 – Nationalism (4 weeks)

Week 2, Sunday Feb 15: The roots of nationalism

Week 3, Sunday Feb 22: Arab nationalism I
(To reschedule if Sunday is a holiday)
- Israel Gershoni and James Jankowski, ed.s, *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997):

Week 4, Sunday Feb 29: Arab nationalism II
- Israel Gershoni and James Jankowski, ed.s, *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997):

Week 5, Sunday March 7: Turkey
• See also:

**Section 2 – Socialism (3 weeks)**

**Week 6, Sunday March 14: Communism**

**Week 7, Sunday March 21: The Baath**
• Also:

**Week 8, Sunday March 28: Nasser and the Cold War**  
*(To reschedule)*

**Week starting Sunday April 4: does not meet because of holidays**
Section 3 – Islamism (5 weeks)

Week 9, Sunday April 11: Neo-Salafism
(To reschedule; Sunday is a holiday)


Week 10, Sunday April 18: The Iranian Revolution
Week starting Sunday April 25: does not meet because of holidays

- Also:

Week 11, Sunday May 2: Jihad in Egypt and North Africa
(To reschedule; Sunday is a holiday)

- Also:
  - Abdelwahab El-Affendi, “The Long March from Lahore to Khartoum: Beyond the ‘Muslim Reformation’,” *Bulletin* [of the British Society for Middle East


Week 12, Sunday May 9: Afghanistan and after


Section 3 – Papers (2 weeks)

Week 13, Sunday May 16: Seminar paper presentations

Week 14, Sunday May 23: Seminar paper presentations