This course is designed to introduce the students to the modern Near/Middle East. We will survey the major historical and political developments in the region from roughly 1700 to the present. The course is divided into two sections. The first section will cover broad historical themes such as the development and political influence of the Ottoman Empire and the impact of European imperialism in the region. Significant attention will be given to the Ottoman Empire—as both an introduction for students to this important historical entity as well as understanding its legacy in the post-WWI era. The crucial watershed of WWI and its impact on the region, heralding the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the creation of a new imperial order, is a very important part of this section. We will then turn to Palestine and study the emergence of the Zionist movement and creation of Israel. After the midterm we will study the Arab-Israeli conflict and related political issues that affected the region, such as the Cold War, new ideologies, and intra-state rivalries. With these previously discussed issues serving as a backdrop, we will then analyze important historical events and political movements in a select group of Middle Eastern countries.