

Popular protest, massive protest movements, and challenges to an old and rotten tyrannical order rocked the Arab world in 2011. City squares across North Africa and the Middle East saw hundreds of thousands demand the fall of aging autocrats and the creation of new democratic orders. Much of this was caught on full display, televised widely and reported on extensively across social media. The outcome, 6 years later, has been uncertain. Old regimes came back into power in Egypt or remained in place in Bahrain. Tunisia's transition has been more promising, but remains uncertain. Elsewhere the peaceful public mobilization eventually yielded to violence. Syria and Yemen have suffered from sustained war, with millions killed or displaced. And, the wars that followed also helped give rise to global networks such as ISIS and renewed the power of al-Al-Qaeda. This course will examine the roots of the 2011 revolutions, their rise and fall, and the ways they have shaped flows of global refugees to the continuing specter of ISIS inspired terrorism.