

POLS 59

MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

Prof. Osman Balkan



This class offers an introduction to the politics of the Middle East and North Africa from World War I to the present day. Throughout the semester, students will learn about political, economic, social, and cultural developments within and across a number of different countries in the region. Topics covered include colonialism, nationalism, and state formation; political Islam, revolutions, social movements, and the Arab Spring; the Kurdish question; the Syrian conflict and the rise of ISIS; and U.S. involvement in the region. Classes will be supplemented with outside lectures, workshops, and film screenings. No prior knowledge of the Middle East is necessary.