



Ara Güler, 'View of the Galata Bridge' (1950s).

**HIU12052**      **Empire, Oil, and Revolution: The Middle East in the 20th Century**

**Co-ordinator**      **Ramazan Hakki Öztan**

**Credits**      **5 ECTS**

**Semester**      **Hilary Term**

**Assessment**      A 1,000-1,500 essay (40%), and a 2,000-2,500 word end-of-term essay (60%)

**Module Description:** This module is a survey of the modern Middle East, providing a broad overview of a range of developments that were central to the history of the region in the twentieth century. After briefly exploring the contours of the Ottoman rule, the module will focus on the First World War, a pivotal period that profoundly shaped the political, social, economic future of the Middle East. The postwar years first saw the introduction of the League of Nations-supervised mandates under the British and French control. Even if nationalist resistance was quick to emerge, colonial rule lasted well into the Second World War. The period of decolonization that followed was marked by the creation of the state of Israel and the Nakba, the Suez Crisis, the Algerian War of Independence, and the start of the Arab Cold War. After discussing these important developments, the module will examine the internationalization of the Palestinian Question, the emergence of Kurdish armed resistance, and the Iranian Revolution. The final weeks of the module will be devoted to lectures that will explore the rise of petrostates and the currents of political Islam, followed by discussions of the Gulf War and the legacies of American intervention into the region. We will wrap up the module by focusing on Arab Spring, a very contemporary episode whose legacies are still with us today. At the end of this class, students will have a solid understanding of the emergence of the modern Middle East, while also being able to situate the region's history as part of a larger global context.