The seminar examines the interrelations between State and religion in Saudi Arabia since the alliance between the House of Saud and the Wahhabi Islam. It follows those relations throughout the 20th century and focuses on the impact of domestic constraints, oil, regional developments and the 'special relations' with the United States, on the shaping of their present mode.

Required Reading

   (All available on Amazon)

Course Requirements and grading
1. Attendance of classes and participation in discussions.
2. Reading assignments as indicated on syllabus (1+2: 20%).
3. Mid-term Exam #1: 30 September (15%).
4. Mid-term Exam #2: 31 October (15%).
5. A 12-15 pages seminar paper (topics to be selected from a list that would be given on the first seminar meeting, 26 August), to be submitted on the last day of classes (December 4) (25%).
6. Final Exam (25%).

OUTLINE
August 26; Introduction. A short geographical and historical background.

August 28, August 30; Wahhabism, the house of Saud: The first Wahhabi-Saudi state
Reading

September 2, September 4; The 19th Century: The rise and fall of the second Saudi-Wahhabi state.
Reading

September 7: Labor Day.

September 9; The Hijaz : A historical and political challenge.
Reading

September 11, September 14; Abd al-Aziz Ibn Saud and the emergence of the third Saudi state.
Reading
McLoughlin, pp. 23-37, 40-60.

September 16, September 18; First clash between Islam and the state: The Ikhwan.
Reading
Rashid, pp. 49-71.

September 21, September 23; Oil, World War and the Beginning of US involvement.
Reading
McLoughlin, pp. 145-158.
**September 25;** Ibn Saud's last years; The 1950s Saudi nationalism.

**Reading**
Rashid, 93-105
Holden-Johns, pp. 141-175.

**September 28;** Yom Kippur

**September 30;** Mid-Term exam #1

**October 2;** The impact of oil on Saudi society and economy.

**Reading**

**October 5, October 7;** The Second Generation: Saud Vs. Faisal.

**Reading**
Lacey, pp. 299-334
Sarah Yizraeli, *The Remaking of Saudi Arabia*, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, pp. 49-60, 75-82.
Rashid, pp. 106-114.

**October 9, October 12;** King Faisal, modernization and the religious establishment.

**Reading**
Leckner, pp. 64-71, 74-88.
Lacey, pp. 358-382.

**October 14, October 16;** King Faisal: between Islam, Arabism and World Affairs.

**Reading**
Rashid, pp. 128-134.

**October 19, October 21;** The Arab-Israeli October 1973 war and the energy crunch.

**Reading**
Safran, pp. 151-179.
Rashid, pp. 135-148.
Jeffrey Robinson, *Yamani, the Inside Story*, The Atlantic
October 23; King Khalid's reign: The emergence of radical Islam

Reading
Rashid, pp. 143-149.
William Ochsenwald, "Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Revival"

October 26, October 28; Saudi Arabia in the 1980s: King Fahd, energy, development and opposition.

Reading
Rashid, pp. 149-162.
Niblock, pp. 77-85.
Abir, pp. 178-197.

October 31; Mid-Term exam #2

November 2; Saudi Arabia and world economy (the 'riyal politque'): image and reality.

Reading
Niblock, pp. 68-75, 114-124.

November 4, November 6; Iraq invasion of Kuwait (the Gulf War) and after: The impact on Saudi Arabia.

Reading
Rashid, pp. 163-187.

November 9; Saudi-Arabia "special relationship" with the US.

Reading
Niblock, pp. 143-163.
Safran, pp. 295-308.

November 11, November 13; Socio-economic issues: Education, employment and guest workers.

Reading
Wilson & Graham, pp. 254-262.
November 16, The 1990s: Terror comes to Saudi Arabia.
**Reading**
Tietelbaum, Holier, pp. 73-94.
Rashid, pp. 176-187.

November 18; September 11 and its impact on Saudi Arabia: Relations with the US, terror and war on terror.
**Reading**
Niblock, pp. 163-170.

November 20; September 11 and its impact on Saudi Arabia: intensified religious-liberal struggle.
**Reading**

November 23; The change in women's role in Saudi Arabia.
**Reading**
Mai Yamani, Changed Identity, pp. 91-114.
Joseph Nevo "Women in Saudi Arabia: the Next Hot Thing" 3 August 2005 [http://gulfc.haifa.ac.il](http://gulfc.haifa.ac.il) (publications/policy papers)
Wilson & Graham, pp. 239-250.

November 25; Saudi Nationalism in the beginning of the 21st century.
**Reading**
Rashid, pp. 188-217.
Mai Yamani, Changed Identities, pp. 10-48.
Mai Yamani, Cradle of Islam, 163-176.

November 27, Thanksgiving
**November 30, December 2;** King Abdullah succeeds King Fahd. Succession in Saudi Arabia: the Second Vs. the third generation.

**Reading**

**December 4;** Conclusion