

Shi`ism in Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The subject of the seminar will be Shi`ism in Iran, south Lebanon and southern Iraq. We will begin with an examination of the basic doctrines, rituals, and sensibilities associated with Shi`ism. From there we will try to understand the different ways these areas adopted Shi`ism and how these differences shaped the very different social and political developments that followed. The remainder of the course will be devoted to a comparison of religious beliefs, social change, and politics in these three places. We will cap the discussion with an examination of Shi`ism in Iraq over the last fifteen years.

Prerequisites: one course in Middle Eastern history.