THE MIDDLE EAST (525) • Founded: 1971

This seminar meets once a month during the academic year, with a prominent expert leading a ninety-minute discussion at each session. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among Middle East experts across business, banking and investment, federal service, foundations, the media, the liberal professions, and academia. The seminar has become a medium for carefully defined and informed evaluation of persistent problems in a region marked by instability and proliferating crises, with detailed minutes prepared for archival purposes.

CHAIR/S: **Gary Sick**; **James Ketterer**; **Frank Stewart** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Sara Godfrey**; **Ruby Topalian**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 17	*Decoding Iran's Foreign Policy* **Ross Harrison**, Middle East Institute; University of Pittsburgh
October 22	*From Beirut to Damascus: War and Change in the Levant* **Steven A. Cook**, Council on Foreign Relations
November 19	*From Apartheid to Democracy: A Blueprint for Peace in Israel-Palestine* **Sarah Leah Whitson**, DAWN
December 10	*The Realm: Muhammad bin Salman and the Transformation of Saudi Arabia* **Bernard Haykel**, Princeton University
January 21	*Iran After the Twelve-Day War* **Mohsen Milani**, University of South Florida
February 11	*Update on Morocco: Legislative Elections, the Abraham Accords, Football Diplomacy, and GenZ 212* **Gregory White**, Smith College
March 11	*From Cairo to Columbia: The Life and Legacy of Shaykh Imam, an Egyptian Performer and Political Dissident* **Andrew Simon**, Dartmouth College
April 15, 2026	*The Iran War* —

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Gary Sick**, ggs2@columbia.edu; **James Ketterer**, jkettere@bard.edu;
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