

SPRING 2024

Intl St 179—Mideast Climate and Conflict (MIDEAST CLIM&CONFLT)

THE MIDDLE EAST IS REPORTEDLY WARMING at twice the global average. As the frequency of extreme weather conditions (e.g., intensified heatwaves, droughts, and floods) in the region goes up, so does a threat to its already fragile water, food, and energy supplies. Climate variability is generally not a direct cause of intra- and inter-state conflicts, but it often exacerbates the pre-existing sources of social, economic, and political instability, thus increasing the chances of tensions within and between countries. In this course we are first going to identify the geographic areas of the Middle East mostly affected by global climate change. Next, we will examine the pre-existing sources of economic and political instability in those regions and the multiplying effects that climate conditions already have or are likely to have on them in the near future. Lastly, we are going to discuss the challenges of coordinated international efforts to simultaneously address the effects of extreme weather conditions in the most vulnerable regions in the Middle East and manage conflicts (actual or potential) associated with such conditions.

