This course explores the dynamic between German and Middle Eastern states and empires from the time of the Crusades to the end of the Cold War.

Focusing on German-language writings and other cultural material about the Middle East (including literary writings, maps, historical documents, religious literature, travel writing, and scholarship), we will evaluate the multiple layers of meaning contained in these works by considering culture contact; a wide web of political, economic, and social developments and practices; and material dimensions. The survey illuminates the complex relationships among cultural material on the one hand, and economic, social, and political processes and material dimensions on the other.

**Grading:** participation (10%); PowerPoint presentation and oral delivery (20%); midterm and final in-class exams (10%, 10%) and take-home papers (20%; 30%).


**Books (at SBX):** Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*; Nina Berman, *German Literature on the Middle East: Discourses and Practices, 1000-1989*