The phrase “New Middle East” refers to the Middle East that emerged in the wake of the American invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003 and the Arab uprisings of 2010-11. The twin events altered the regional balance of power, threatened the viability of existing states, inspired popular mobilization as well as authoritarian backlash, sparked the emergence and proliferation of violent non-state actors, and triggered ruinous civil and proxy wars. In his talk, James L. Gelvin will explore these phenomena, their origins and dynamics, as well as the prospects for a region in turmoil.

James L. Gelvin is Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his B.A. from Columbia University, his Master’s in International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. A specialist in the modern social and cultural history of the Arab East, he is author of five books, including, most recently, The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press, 2017). Gelvin is a widely-read commentator on contemporary Middle Eastern history.