THIS COURSE WILL DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AND MANY MORE:

**Nearly 500,000 people have died in the Syrian Civil War. Why can’t the world come together to end this horrific violence?**

**Qatar and Saudi Arabia are the only two Salafi Sunni countries in the world so why is Qatar aligned with Iran and not Saudi Arabia?**

**Can Israelis and Palestinians really live together side by side? Is the two-state solution dead?**

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**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to equip students with the knowledge, both theoretical and empirical, to understand conflicts that continue to play a major role in the contemporary Middle East and the broader international arena. Course readings and discussions will address broad concepts such as colonialism, imperialism, orientalism, religious fundamentalism and sectarianism that are fundamental to understanding the history of the Middle East as well as its contemporary states. The course will build on these concepts to analyze the antecedents and characteristics of recent and current conflicts including the Iran-Iraq War, the Yemeni Civil War, the Arab-Israeli/Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Syrian Civil War.