PSCI 4700-001 (12309) Contemporary Conflicts in the Middle East
Professor Ayal K. Feinberg
Summer 5W2, 2017

Class: WH 119
Office Hours: Monday 4:00-5:00, Thursday 4:00-5:00
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MTWTH 2:00-3:50

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?

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 Yemini Civil War, the
Arab-Israeli/Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Syrian Civil War.