The conflict in Syria has been described by the UN as “the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world today.” Conservative estimates suggest that over a quarter of a million people have been killed and more than half of the country’s population has been displaced. This conflict has also significantly destabilized the region fueling Islamic radicalism, sectarianism and rivalry between regional and international powers.

This course seeks to examine the conflict in Syria in all of its dimensions with a focus on the regional and international competition and the rise of ISIS.