This course is an introduction to the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, using case studies. The course is designed so that students will acquire first hand on the ground information through the internet as well as text. We use articles, video, on line interviews, poetry, novels, oral histories.

Organizing themes stress social, political, economic organization, class structures, gender, race, colonialisms, nationalisms, resistance movements, over time and currently. Case studies include Afghanistan, Iran, Rwanda, Egypt, and more.

In this course we explore a new method of studying history informed by principles of Satyagraha based in Yogic and Buddhist traditions. Theories of history shape our views of change over time. Most theories of history are based on dualistic, oppositional models of power. We explore these dualisms attempting to connect to their source. We explore power as a source of unity rather than division.

This course prepares students to experience themselves as historical actors in order to engage with the material in a vibrant way. Students become prepared to do further research and to make decisions regarding the critical issues of our times.

Required Texts:
Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope, Dr. Shirin Ebadi
The Heart Sutra, Mu Soeng