

HISTORY OF MODERN IRAN **Spring 2018**

This course covers the history of Iran from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. After introducing the land and its people, it will provide a background to the constitutional revolution of 1906, examine the reigns of the two Pahlavi Shahs, and analyze the causes and consequences of the Islamic revolution of 1978. It will then proceed to an in-depth examination of political, cultural, and religious developments under the Islamic Republic.

The final grade for the course will be determined according to the following key: midterm exam (35%) and a final exam (65%). The midterm exam will cover the material studied up to it, and the final is not cumulative. Students are required to attend the lectures regularly, and attendance will be taken into account for calculating the final grade. If a student misses more than two lectures, the course grade will be taken down one level (i.e., from A to A-, or from B+ to B) for every lecture missed because of a reason other than a religious holiday. No make-up exams will be administered. Cell phones or laptops are not allowed in class.

There are three textbooks for this course: Abbas Milani and Larry Diamond, eds., *Politics and Culture in Contemporary Iran: Challenging the Status Quo* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2015); Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*, and Negin Nabavi, *Modern Iran: A History in Documents* (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2016). All three have been ordered at the BU Bookstore. The other readings will be made available to students.

Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:00 or Wednesday afternoon by appointment. The instructor can be reached at 617 358 0193 or hchehabi@hotmail.com, but routine questions should be asked before or after lectures, not by e-mail.

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. You are expected to provide citations in papers for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source other than your own original thoughts. Boston University has very strict standards for intellectual integrity, and punishment for plagiarism is severe, and can include permanent expulsion from the university. For more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/> or the GRS Academic Conduct Code: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

Schedule of Meetings

January 18: Introduction to the Land and the People of Iran

January 23: Iran in the Nineteenth Century

January 25: The Constitutional Revolution and its Aftermath

Readings:

Nabavi, *Modern Iran*, pp. 14-15, 48-59, 83-90.

January 30: World War I and the Advent of the Pahlavi Dynasty

February 1: The Rule of Reza Shah

Readings:

Rasul Parvizi, "Patched Pants."

H.E. Chehabi, "The Banning of the Veil and its Consequences."

Nabavi, *Modern Iran*, pp. 127-131.

February 6: World War II and its Aftermath

February 8: The Prime Ministership of Mohammad Mossadegh

Readings:

Mark Gasiorowski, "The 1953 Coup d'Etat Against Mosaddeq," and "Conclusion," in Mark Gasiorowski and Malcolm Byrne, eds., *Mohammad Mosaddeq and the 1953 Coup in Iran*.

Nabavi, *Modern Iran*, pp. 133-146.

February 13: From the Coup to the White Revolution

February 15: Iran under Mohammad-Reza Shah: Politics

Readings:

Nabavi, *Modern Iran*, pp. 156-159.

February 20: No class

February 21: Iran under Mohammad-Reza Shah: Social, Cultural, and Economic Developments

Readings:

Khosrow Fatemi, "Leadership by Distrust: The Shah's *Modus Operandi*," *The Middle East Journal* 36 (Winter 1982): 48-60.

Parvin Paidar, *Women and the Political Process in Twentieth-Century Iran*, pp. 147-172.

Ahmad Ashraf, "From the White Revolution to the Islamic Revolution," in Saeed Rahnema and Sohrab, eds., *Iran after the Revolution: Crisis of an Islamic State* (London: I.B. Tauris, 1995), pp. 21-44.

February 27: Iran's foreign relations under the Shah

March 1: Midterm Exam

Readings:

Shahram Chubin, "Iran," in Yezid Sayigh and Avi Shlaim, eds., *The Cold War and the Middle East* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997), 216-249.

March 13: Non-Muslim Iranians in Pre-Revolutionary Iran

March 15: Intellectual Developments of the Early 1960s

Readings:

Eliz Sanasarian, *Religious Minorities in Iran*, chapter 2.

Nabavi, *Modern Iran*, pp. 161-179.

March 20: Nowruz Celebration

March 22: Twelver Shi'ism and Ayatollah Khomeini

Readings:

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, *Islamic Government*, excerpts.

http://www.iranchamber.com/history/rkhomeini/books/velayat_faqqeh.pdf

March 27: The Revolutionary Movement of 1977-79

March 29: The Provisional Government of 1979

Readings:

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*, pp. 1-61.

Nabavi, *Modern Iran*, pp. 183-189.

April 3: Birth of the Islamic Republic

April 5: The Islamic Republic under Khomeini

Readings:

Satrapi, 62-152.

Mehrangis Kar, "Shari'a Law in Iran," in Paul Marshall, ed., *Radical Islam's Rules: The Worldwide Spread of Extreme Sharia Law* (New York: Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom, 2005), pp. 41-64.

April 10: Foreign Relations of the Islamic Republic

April 12: Post-Khomeini Politics

Readings:

Farideh Farhi, "The politics of reform in the Islamic Republic of Iran," in Shahram Akbarzadeh and Abdullah Saeed, eds., *Islam and Political Legitimacy* (London: Routledge, 2003), pp. 50-69.

Nabavi, *Modern Iran*, pp. 229-235.

April 17: Iranian Society in the Islamic Society

April 19: Film: The Salamander

Readings:

Ervand Abrahamian, "Why the Islamic Republic Has Survived," *Middle East Report* 250 (Spring 2009): 10-16.

Homa Hoodfar, "Activism under the Radar: Volunteer Women Health Workers in Iran," *Middle East Report* 250(Spring 2009): 56-60.

Fatemeh Sadeghi, "Foot Soldiers in the Islamic Republic's 'Culture of Modesty,'" *Middle East Report* 250(Spring 2009): 50-55.

April 24: The Ahmadinejad Phenomenon

April 25: Post-Ahmadinejad Developments and the Nuclear Deal

Readings:

Sir Richard Dalton, "The Iran Nuclear Negotiations one Year on," *Asian Affairs* 47:3 (2016): 351-365.

May 1: Final discussions and evaluations