IR 328 and HI 398: TURKO-PERSIA SINCE 1900

This course covers history of the three non-Arab Muslim-majority countries of the Middle East, i.e. Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan. This is a geographic area in which Iranian and Turkic peoples have been in close contact for a millennium and forged a cultural synthesis, hence the term ‘Turko-Persia’.

These nine countries enjoyed a certain cultural unity until the early twentieth century, when nationalist projects emphasized their separate identities. Before the First World War, the inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire, Iran (Persia) and Afghanistan were the only Muslims who were not governed by Europeans, which makes the history of these three countries very different from most of the rest of the non-Western world, which at one point or another was subdued by colonialism.

Throughout the course, political, diplomatic, social, and cultural developments will be covered, and the mutual influences of the various countries on each other will be highlighted. Topics discussed in this course include the Young Turk revolution in the Ottoman Empire, the constitutional revolution in Iran, the impact of World War I on the Ottoman Empire and Iran, the reforms of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Reza Shah Pahlavi, and King Amanullah, World War II, democratization in Turkey, the 1953 coup d’etat of 1953 in Iran, the Iranian revolution of 1979, the Communist take-over in Afghanistan and the subsequent war, and the advent of a mildly Islamist government in Turkey.


There will be a midterm examination and a final examination, and the course grade will be calculated as follows: 40 % midterm, 60 % final. Class attendance and participation are mandatory and will be monitored. 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 without a valid excuse.

The instructor can be reached by telephone at 358 0193. Office hours are T. and Th. 2:00-3:00, or by appointment on Wednesday afternoons, and take place at 154 Bay State Road. No make-up exams will be given except in very exceptional circumstances – travel arrangements will not count as such. Cell phones and laptop computers are not allowed in class.

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/
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
January 22: Turko-Persia: geography, languages, religions
January 24: Pre-nineteenth-century history of Turko-Persia

Zürcher, pp. 3-23.
Keddie, pp. 1-21.

Week 2
January 29: Turko-Persia in the nineteenth century
January 31: Constitutionalism in the Middle East

Zürcher, pp. 24-82.
Keddie, pp. 22-57.

Week 3
February 5: The Constitutional Revolution in Iran, 1905-1909
February 7: The Young Turk Revolution of 1908

Keddie, pp. 58-72
Zürcher, pp. 82-108.

Week 4
February 12: World War I and its aftermath in Turkey: the emergence of modern Turkey
February 14: World War I and its aftermath in Iran: The Rise of Reza Pahlavi

Zürcher, pp. 109-166.
Keddie, pp. 73-88.

Week 5
February 19: No class
February 21: The emergence of independent Afghanistan

Ewans, pp. 32-85.

Week 6
February 26: One-Party Kemalism in Turkey
February 28: The rule of Reza Shah
Zürcher, pp. 167-207.
Keddie, pp. 88-104.

**Week 7**
March 5: King Amanullah of Afghanistan
March 7: Midterm exam

Ewans, pp. 86-98.

**Week 8**
March 19: World War II and its aftermath in Iran
March 21: Transition to democracy in Turkey

Keddie, pp. 105-131.
Zürcher, pp. 208-243.
Touraj Atabaki, Azerbaijan, pp. 7-26.

**Week 9**
March 26: Political developments in Turkey from 1960 to 2002
March 28: Turkish foreign policy

Zürcher, 244-337.

**Week 10**
April 2: Political developments under the Shah, 1953-1979
April 4: Social, cultural, and religious developments in Iran, 1953-1979

Keddie, pp. 132-213.

**Week 11**
April 9: The Islamic Revolution in Iran
April 11: The Islamic Republic of Iran

Keddie, pp. 214-284, 323-346.
Preamble of the Constitution of 1979
Week 12
April 16: The foreign relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran
April 18: Turkey under Tayyip Erdoğan

Zürcher, pp. 338-367.

Week 13
April 23: Afghanistan under the monarchy, 1919-1973
April 25: The Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan

Ewans, pp. 99-173.

Week 14
April 30: 9/11 and the subsequent war in Afghanistan
May 2: Relations between Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan in the twenty-first century

Ewans, pp. 174-212.