HISTORY OF MODERN IRAN

This course covers the history of Iran in the twentieth century. 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 without a valid excuse. Students arriving more than five minutes late for class will not be allowed to sign the attendance sheet, except if they can prove that they cannot possibly make it in time for class. 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 Barbara Slavin, Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies: Iran, the U.S., and the Twisted Path to Confrontation (New York: St. Martin’s, 2007), and Negin Nabavi, Modern Iran: A History in Documents (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2016). All four 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 20: Introduction to the Land and the People of Iran
January 25: Iran in the Nineteenth Century
January 27: The Constitutional Revolution and its Aftermath

Readings:
Slavin, *Bitter Friends*, Introduction and chapter 1

January 31: World War I and the Advent of the Pahlavi Dynasty
February 2: The Rule of Reza Shah

Readings:
Rasul Parvizi, “Patched Pants.”

February 7: World War II and its Aftermath
February 9: The Prime Ministership of Mohammad Mossadegh

Readings:

February 14: From the Coup to the White Revolution
February 16: Iran under Mohammad-Reza Shah: Politics

Readings:

February 21: No class
February 23: Iran under Mohammad-Reza Shah: Social, Cultural, and Economic Developments

Readings:

February 28: Iran’s foreign relations under the Shah
March 2: Midterm Exam
Readings:

**March 7:** Spring Break  
**March 9:** Spring Break

**March 14:** Non-Muslim Iranians in Pre-Revolutionary Iran  
**March 16:** Intellectual Developments of the Early 1960s

Readings:  

**March 21:** Nowruz Celebration  
**March 23:** Twelver Shi‘ism and Ayatollah Khomeini

Readings:  
http://www.iranchamber.com/history/rkhomeini/books/velayat_faqeeh.pdf

**March 28:** The Revolutionary Movement of 1977-79  
**March 30:** The Provisional Government of 1979

Readings:  

**April 4:** Birth of the Islamic Republic  
**April 6:** The Islamic Republic under Khomeini

Readings:  
Satrapi, 62-152.  

**April 11:** Foreign Relations of the Islamic Republic  
**April 13:** Post-Khomeini Politics

Readings:  
April 18: Iranian Society in the Islamic Society
April 20: Film: The Salamander

Readings:

April 25: The Ahmadinejad Phenomenon
April 27: Post-Ahmadinejad Developments and the Nuclear Deal

Readings:
Slavin, Bitter Friends, chapters 2, 3, 7.

May 2: Final discussions and evaluations