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.

All students are required to familiarize themselves with the Boston University Academic Code of Conduct, which shall be applied to the fullest in all cases of academic misconduct, including plagiarism.

There are three textbooks for this course: Ali M. Ansari, Modern Iran since 1921, 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). All three have been ordered at the BU Bookstore. The other readings will be made available to students.

Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15 or 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.

Schedule of Meetings

January 20: Introduction to the Land and the People of Iran
January 22: Iran in the Nineteenth Century

January 27: The Constitutional Revolution and its Aftermath
January 29: World War I and the Advent of the Pahlavi Dynasty

February 3: The Rule of Reza Shah
February 5: World War II and its Aftermath

Readings:
Ansari, pp. 24-74.
Rasul Parvizi, “Patched Pants.”
February 10: The Prime Ministership of Mohammad Mossadegh

February 12: From the Coup to the White Revolution

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.

February 17: No class
February 19: Iran under Mohammad-Reza Shah: Politics

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

February 24: Iran under Mohammad-Reza Shah: Social, Cultural, and Economic Developments
February 26: Iran’s foreign relations under the Shah

March 3: Midterm Exam
March 5: Open discussion

March 10: Spring Break
March 12: Spring Break

March 17: Intellectual Developments of the Early 1960s
March 19: Non-Muslim Iranians in Pre-Revolutionary Iran

Readings:
Jalal Al-e Ahmad, Weststruckness.
Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Iranian Intellectuals and the West, chapter 3.
Eliz Sanasarian, Religious Minorities in Iran, chapter 2.

March 24: Twelver Shi‘ism: Iran’s State Religion
March 26: Ayatollah Khomeini

Readings:
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Islamic Government, excerpts.

March 31: The Revolutionary Movement of 1977-79
April 2: The Provisional Government of 1979
Readings:

**April 7:** Birth of the Islamic Republic  
**April 9:** The Islamic Republic under Khomeini

Readings:  
Satrapi, 62-152.  

**April 14:** Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations of the Islamic Republic  
**April 16:** Post-Khomeini Politics

Readings:  

**April 21:** Iranian Society in the Islamic Society  
**April 23:** Film: The Salamander

Readings:  

**April 28:** The Ahmadinejad Phenomenon  
**April 30:** Post-Ahmadinejad Developments and Evaluations

Readings:  