

**Social, Cultural & Political History of the Iranian Plateau
7th Century - Present**

Mon, 4:00-6:30p.m.
Franklin 306

Preliminary Syllabus

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This course is an examination of the society, social history, and politics of Modern Iran and Afghanistan - defined as 19th and 20th century Iran and Afghanistan (with a glimpse at Central Asia possible as well).

The course is divided into two major parts - the first one on Iran and the second on Afghanistan. The Afghanistan focus is being added for this semester because of the significance of the events in that country in recent years and the fact that we will have a number of visiting scholars who will provide their expertise for specific sessions. The class meets once a week and the principal format will be a lecture by the instructor for part of the period, but then to discuss the readings, including the approach, sources, etc. For some readings and topics, students will give oral presentations. Where we have a visiting lecturer, that format may somewhat change (particularly for the Afghanistan section because of the number of visiting lecturers).

Course Requirements:

Final Exam.....	20%
Individual presentations, reviews, and writeups.....	40%
Research Paper.....	40%

Note: On the final syllabus and list of readings it will be noted which readings are optional for the undergraduate students. Also, the undergraduates will give less presentations and have a shorter length term paper. However, it should be noted that even though this is a 400/500 level class, it is being taught principally as a 500 level graduate class. Only serious, interested undergraduates should take this class (and should see the instructor first).

Required Texts:

[preliminary - still deciding on exactly what - so this may change a bit, esp. for Afghanistan]

Buchta, Wilfried. *Who Rules Iran? The Structure of Power in the Islamic Republic*. Washington DC: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2000.

Milani, Mohsen M. *The Making of Iran's Islamic Revolution: From Monarchy to Islamic Republic*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1994 (2nd ed.)

Bayat, Asef. *Poor People's Movements in Iran: Street Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997

Rashid, Ahmed. *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil & Fundamentalism in Central Asia*. New Haven: Yale Nota Bene/Yale University Press, 2000.

Rubin, Barnett. *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002.

Dupree, Louis. *Afghanistan*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980.

Besides the texts, other readings will come from various books and journals, including from the major journals and academic encyclopedias, such as *Iranian Studies*, *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, *Iranian Studies*, *Iran*, *Encyclopedia of Islam*, etc. An objective of the course is also to impart in the student a knowledge of the major sources for the social history and society of Iran (and Afghanistan), as well as the background of the scholars/writers, and so discussions of these will occur.

Major Weekly Topics:

Jan 26: The Iranian Plateau: The Geographical Foundation
(Iran & Afghanistan - Physical Geog, Ethnic groups, etc.)

Feb 2: Shi'ism & Pre-Modern Iran

Feb 9: Qajar Iran: 19th & 20 centuries
The Constitutional Revolution of 1905-06

Feb 16: Pahlavi Iran: The Modernization of Iran
Urbanization and Economic Development
Agricultural Development, Land Reform
[Dr. Amir Ajami, Sociologist, International Programs,
University of Arizona]

Feb 23: The Iranian Revolution of 1978-79 & the Islamic Republic

Mar 1: How Iran is Ruled: The politics of the Islamic Republic

Mar 8: Society & Social Conditions in Contemporary Iran

Mar 15: Spring Break

Mar 22: Afghanistan & 19th Century Imperialism
[Dr. Senzil Nawid, Afghan Historian, Affiliated Scholar
with the Center for Middle East Studies, University of
Arizona]

Mar 29: Afghanistan: State Building and Nationalism
[Dr. Senzil Nawid]

Ap 5: Ethnic Diversity and the State
[Dr. Tom Barfield, Anthropology, Boston University]

Ap 12: Moderization and Contemporary Afghanistan
[Alam Payind, Director, Center for Middle East Studies,
Ohio State University]

Ap 19: Taliban and Militant Islam in Afghanistan

Ap 26: Women in Afghanistan
[Dr. Senzil Nawid]

May 3: Iran & Afghanistan: Comparisons