Course Description:

This course will examine the major transformations in the political and social structure of Iran from the late nineteenth century to the present. We will be examining the recurrent political, historical and cultural themes and their implications on Iran’s development. These include: perspectives on political authority, modernization, formation of state, social movements and revolutions, state-society relations, political Islam, gender and the role of women. This course is comparative in nature and will draw parallels with other countries in the region as well as comparisons within Iran at different periods of that country’s history. The course will also address the global impact of Iran’s Islamic Revolution as well as US-Iran relations before and after the revolution.

Requirements:

Students are required to purchase all assigned books. They are available at the NYU bookstore. You can also purchase the books online or from other bookstores. There will also be several assigned readings compiled in a course pack, to be purchased from New University Copy and Graphic. I may also distribute some readings in class. Students are required to bring the course pack and/or textbooks on the days indicated on the syllabus. You are responsible for all the readings on the syllabus, regardless of whether or not we discuss them. There may be changes to the syllabus if I deem them appropriate or necessary. You are responsible for knowing about these changes.
The grades will be computed based on two examinations, quizzes and class participation. The mid-term will be an in-class essay exam, worth 30%. The final exam will be the same format, worth 50%. I will be giving a series of quizzes (sometimes unannounced) throughout the semester, worth 10%. Class participation will count for the remaining 10% of your grade. Students are expected and required to be present at every class session and to be prepared for class. Class participation is calculated based on attendance and discussion in class. More than three absences will result in deductions from your final grade for the course.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Mid-term exam: Tuesday, October 26
Final exam: Tuesday, December 21 (10:00-11:50 AM)

TEXTBOOKS:


Coursepack: New University Copy and Graphic
11 Waverly Place. (212) 473-7369

I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Tuesday, September 7

II. RELIGION, POLITICS AND THE STATE: MIDDLE EASTERN CONTEXT

Thursday, September 9:
III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION

Tuesday, September 14:
Keddie (2003) Introduction, Chs. 1, 2

Thursday, September 16:

Tuesday, September 21:

IV. THE PAHLAVI PERIOD (1925-1979)

Thursday, September 23:
Keddie (2003), Ch. 5
Kinzer (2003) Chs. 1, 2, 3

Tuesday, September 28:
Keddie (2003) Ch. 6
Kinzer (2003) Chs. 4, 5, 6

Thursday, September 30:
Kinzer (2003) Chs. 7, 8, 9

Tuesday, October 5:
Kinzer (2003) Chs. 10, 11, 12, epilogue

V. THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION: KHOMEINI AND CONSOLIDATION OF STATE

Thursday, October 7:
Tuesday, October 12:
Bill, J. and Springborg, R. “Patterns of Patrimonialism in the Middle East,” in Politics in the Middle East (2000), pp.112-130 (course pack)
Keddie (2003) Ch. 8

Thursday, October 14:
Keddie (2003) Ch. 9

Tuesday, October 19:

Thursday, October 21:

Tuesday, October 26:
Mid-term examination

VI. IRAN SINCE THE REVOLUTION: KHATAMI AND THE REFORM PERIOD; STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY; CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Thursday, October 28:
Sciolino (2000) Chs 1, 2, 3, 4

Tuesday, November 2:
Keddie (2003) Ch. 11
Sciolino (2003) Chs. 5, 6, 7

Thursday, November 4:
Keddie (2003) Ch. 12, conclusion
Sciolino (2003) Chs. 8, 9, 10

Tuesday, November 9:
Sciolino (2003) Chs 11, 12, 13, 14

Thursday, November 11:
Sciolino (2003) Chs. 15, 16, 17, epilogue
Tuesday, November 16:  
Wright (2001) Introduction, Chs. 1, 2

Thursday, November 18: no class

Tuesday, November 23:  
Wright (2001) Chs. 3, 4, 5

Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday, November 30:  
Wright (2001) Chs. 6, 7, epilogue

VII. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Thursday, December 2:  
New York Times Editorial (handout)

Tuesday, December 7:  

Thursday, December 9:  
Huntington, Samuel P. “The Clash of Civilizations?” in Foreign Affairs 72:3 (Summer 1993), pp. 22-49. (course pack)

Tuesday, December 14:  
Conclusion and Review

Tuesday, December 21:  
Final exam (10:00 AM-11:50 AM)