HSTR 368.01: Iran Between Two Revolutions

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After sketching the geographical, historical, and cultural background of ancient Persia, this course will examine, in greater detail and depth, the political, social, and intellectual history of Iran since the beginning of the nineteenth century. Special attention will be given to the rise of nationalism in the nineteenth century and the radicalization of the Shia religious hierarchy and the modernist intelligentsia as well as the reforms introduced by the two Pahlavi shahs from 1925 to 1979 and the political, social, and cultural causes of the 1979 revolution. The course ends with a discussion of Iran under the Islamic regime and the emergence of the country as a major political, economic, and military power challenging American and Russian hegemony in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Exam Schedule:

First Exam: March 6
Second Exam: April 3
Third Exam: May 1, 7:40–9:40 p.m.

Textbooks:

Sandra Mackey, *The Iranians*
Reading for First Exam: pp. xv–186
Reading for Second Exam: pp. 187–300
Reading for Third Exam: pp. 301–410

Stephen Kinzer, *All the Shah’s Men*
Reading for Second Exam: entire book

Grade for the Course

First Exam (March 6): 25%
Second Exam (April 3): 25%
Third Exam (Monday, May 1): 25%
Paper on the Annual Central and Southwest Asia Conference, which will be held from April 18 to April 19, 2018: 15%

Attendance: 10%

**Please Note:** There will be no incomplete given in this course. Two absences will result in loss of a grade.

**Topics to be Discussed in the Class:**

I – **Geography and Population Composition**
A. Ancient History and Identity
B. Who is an Iranian/Tajik/Afghan?
   - Cultural Diversity in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan
C. Cultural and Geographical Features of Tajiks/Persians of Central Asia
D. Ancient Persia becomes Modern Iran

II – **Nineteenth Century Background**
A. Russian and British colonialism
B. Military defeat and the beginning of national awakening
C. Disintegration of the traditional order

A. Modernist Intelligentsia
B. Shia Ulama and the Bazaar
C. Democracy, Islam, and Modernization

IV – **The Pahlavi Dynasty**
A. Reza Khan becomes Reza Shah
B. Nationalism, secularism, and “modernization”
C. State Capitalism and the emergence of modern social classes

V – **Mohammad Mossadeq, Nationalism of Iran’s Oil Industry, and the CIA–MI6 overthrow of Iran’s democratic government**
A. National Front
B. Communist Tudeh Party
C. Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi and his supporters

VI – **From August 1953 coup to the “Revolution of the Shah and His People”**
A. Destruction of the feudal order
B. Iran and the United States
C. Industrialization, political suppression, and intellectual alienation
VII – The Iranian Revolution of 1979: Turban for the Crown

A. Political and ideological forces in the revolution
B. Ayatollah Khomeini, the Democratic Opposition and the Marxist movement
C. From revolution to the establishment of the Islamic Republic

VIII – The Islamic Republic in crisis

A. Hostage crisis: Iran confronts the United States
B. Iraq invades Iran: Saddam Hussein and Ayatollah Khomeini
C. Factional infighting within the Islamic regime
D. Movie: “Color of Paradise”

IX – Iran after Khomeini

A. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
B. Iran, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the Middle East
C. Iran, China, Russia, and the United States
D. The Revolution to Overthrow the Islamic regime commences

The grade for this course is based on three exams, each constituting 25% of the total grade. ONE short paper will constitute 15% of the total grade. Attendance will constitute the remaining 10% of your grade. Two absences will result in loss of a grade. There will be no incomplete given in this course.

Disability Services for Students (DSS) is The University of Montana’s student affairs office, which assumes program access to the University by students with disabilities. Any student with disability or special need should contact Dr. Kia and he will coordinate and provide reasonable modifications which may be required.