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History 606: History of Iran and Afghanistan 1500-Present

Instructor: Dr. Maziar Behrooz

Spring 2006: W 7-9:45 HSS 152.

Office Hours: Science 223, WEDNESDAY 3-5 or by appointment.

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Course Description: This course is a historical study of Iran and Afghanistan from the rise of the Safavid Empire in 1501 C.E. to the present. The course begins with a historical background on the Iranian and Perso-Islamic cultural presence in the eastern half of the Islamic world and the geographic area known as Iranian plateau. Then, the Safavid Empire's history and rise of Shi'ism in the region plus Safavid politics and society will be examined. Next, Iran in the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries and the birth of Afghanistan as a separate entity will be covered. Here Iranian and Afghan societies will be examined in light of disruption, colonial subjugation, reform and rebellion under the Afshars, the Zands and the Qajars and Dorrani shah's in Afghanistan. The final part of the course will examine Iran and Afghanistan in the twentieth century. Subjects such as the two Iranian revolutions in the twentieth century, the Oil Nationalization Movement, the Iranian Communist movement and the rise of political Islam as well as Afghanistan's reforms, Soviet invasion, civil war and the rise of Taliban will be the main focus of this part.

Course Outline:

Week 1: February 1

Iran in the 1400s century: what is Persia and where is Iran? Islam, Shi'ism, Sufism; nomadic way of life; Timur and Timurids; nomadic confederations in 1400s: Qara Qyunlu and Aq Qyunlu; Early Safavid State under Shahs Isma'il and Tahmasp; the Safavid Sufi Order and the Qizilbash.

Read: e-reserve: Shahabi, "Roots of Shi'ism;" Savory, "The Consolidation of Safavid Power in Persia;" "The Sherley Myth;" Gholsorkhi, "Pri Khan Khanum."

Week 2: Feb.8

The Safavid Empire: the crisis of Safavid state after Tahmasp; Abbas the Great and his reforms; state, society and religion under the Safavids.

Read: e-reserve: "The Safavid Empire at the Height;" & "The Safavid Synthesis"

Week 3: Feb. 15

Iran in the 1700s: collapse of the Safavid Empire; Afshars and Zands;

unification under the Qajars Emergence of early Afghan state.

Reader: Keddie, *Modern Iran* pp.1-37 & Ewans, *Afghanistan* pp.1-32, plus e-reserve: Tucker, "Nadir Shah;" Abrahamian, "Oriental Despotism;"

Week 4: Feb.22

Iran in the 1800s: oriental despotism; early Qajar state; military defeat and its consequences; reforms of Prince Abbas Mirza and Amir Kabir; the Babi Movement; state of Shi'i religious establishment.

Read: Keddie pp. 37-58 e-reserve: Lorentz, "Iran's Great Reformer;" Amanat, "Qurrat al-`Ayn;"

Mid-term Exam I

Week 5: March 1

Late Qajar state: Iran and European economic domination; reforms of late 19th century; "al-Afghani"; the Tobacco protest; Afghanistan in the 19th century.

Read: Keddie, pp. 58-73; Ewans, 32-80; e-reserve: Moussavi, "The Establishment of Position."

Week 6: March 8

Iran in the 20th century: the Constitutional Revolution of 1906; civil war of 1908-1909; intellectuals and ulama; Iran and WWI.

Read: e-reserve: Abrahamian, "The Causes of the Constitutional Revolution in Iran"

Week 7: March 15

Iran after WWI; Anglo-Iranian agreement of 1919; the 1921 coup and fall of the Qajars; Reza Khan and the Pahlavi dynasty; Iran under Reza Shah; Communist Party of Iran; Afghanistan: Reforms of Amir Amanallah Khan.

Read: Keddie, pp. 73-105; Ewans, pp. 80-99

Week 8: March 22

Iran and WW2; fall of Reza Shah; return of parliamentary "democracy"; Tudeh Party and Soviet politics; Oil Nationalization Movement; Mosaddeq and the National Front.

Read Keddie, pp. 105- 132; e-reserve: Gasiorowski, "The 1953 Coup"

Mid-term Exam II

Week 9: March 29

The 1953 Coup and emergence of shah's dictatorship; consolidation of power and reform: "White Revolution" and the 1963 uprising.

Read: e-reserve: Behrooz, "Tudeh Factionalism"

Week 10: April 3-7 (**Spring Recess**)

Week 11: April 12

Shah's reforms: politics of uneven development; 1970s and its boom and bust economy; Iran before revolution; Afghanistan under Zaher Shah.

Read: Keddie, pp. 132-148; Ewans, pp.99-128 e-reserve: "The Roots of Ulama Power in Iran."

Week 12: April 19

The religious opposition: Shi'i theology and state power; Mojahedin and Ali Shari'ati; Khomeini and the ulama.

Read: Keddie, pp.148-214; e-reserve: Dabashi, "Ayatollah Khomeini."

Week 13: April 26

The secular opposition: the communist movement; the guerrilla movement; the nationalists and secular intellectuals; Coup and Republic in Afghanistan.

Read: Keddie, pp.214-240; Abrahamian, *Khomeinism*, chapter: The Paranoid Style; Ewans, pp.128-138; e-reserve: Behrooz, "Iran's Fadayan;"

Week 14: May 3

The 1979 Revolution: why has Iran been revolutionary?; the upheaval; collapse of the imperial regime; consolidation of the Islamic Republic; American hostages; the Iran Iraq War; June 1981 crisis; Afghanistan under Soviet occupation.

Read: Keddie, pp.240-263; Abrahamian, chapter "Fundamentalist or Populist;" Ewans, 138-171; e-reserve: Bakhash, "Iran;" "Royalists and Communists"

Week 15: May 10

Iran after Khomeini: relations with the US; an age of reconstruction; revolutionary Islam; Iran as a regional power; Afghanistan: from collapse of communism to the reign of Taliban

Read: Keddie, 263-317; Abrahamian, chapter: History Used and Abused; Ewans, pp.171-210; e-reserve: "Sea of Lies;" Behrooz, "The Islamic State;" Paidar, "'Women and the Political Transformation;" Gohari, "The Taliban's Islamic Theology"

Week 16: May 17

Finishing remaining lectures and open class discussion (time permitting).

Books:

Abrahamian, Ervand. *Khomeinism: Essays on the Islamic Republic*
Ewans, Martin. *Afghanistan: a Short History*

Keddie, Nikki. *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*
Moaveni Azadeh. *Lipstick Jihad* (OPTIONAL)

Electronic Reserve: There are a number of articles on e-reserve which are also available as print copies in the reserve section of the library. You can access these reading assignments by: 1)go to www.library.sfsu.edu, 2)click on electronic reserves, 3)punch-in instructor's name or course number, 4) punch-in password: puyan

There will be two mid-term exams (25% each) and a final exam (50%). The mid-term exams will be taken in class, will be essay questions, and students will have options. **The final exam will be take-home and has to be 10 to 15 pages long, typed and double space.** Your exams will be based on the required readings and class lectures. It must be noted that the two cover different aspects of the subject, therefore, class attendance is essential in receiving the desired grade in this course.

Extra Credit: You may write a review of *Lipstick Jihad* (no more than five pages, typed, double space) for ten points credit toward your final grade.

Important: Do not miss any exams unless you have a very good reason and have prearranged everything with me