

Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU

Course No.: WA 641

Class: Ph.D. Course

Course Title: Politics and Foreign Policy of Iran since the Revolution

Teacher: Dr. Sima Baidya

Credits: Four

Instruction Method: Lectures and Tutorials

Evaluation Method: Term paper, Assignments and End Semester Examination.

Course Duration: One Semester [First Semester of Ph.D.]

Teaching Hours: Four per week

The course aims at understanding post-revolutionary Iran's politics from Iranian perspective. This is an attempt to decipher the Iranian political mind and its linkages with its history, philosophy and political thought. This course looks into the diverse intellectual tradition that ushered in the history of movements in the pre-revolutionary period. The course explains, it is a long process of defiance, dissent and protests, which culminated in the Iranian revolution of 1979. The course lays emphasis on the ulema-state relations in the pre and post-revolutionary period. It is obvious that unbroken linkages between them strengthen the religiosity of Iran and defines the nature of the state. After the revolution, by a referendum, Iran became Islamic Republic of Iran. Subsequently, new Iranian constitution was formulated after a due deliberation of the Constituent Assembly. In the new constitution, Islam becomes the governing principle of the state and Vilayet-e-Faqih is at the helm of the affairs. Post-revolutionary Iran started new political institution building, like, Guardian Council, Assembly of Experts etc. and formed the base of new Iranian political system. The course outlines the transformation of Iranian society. The deep rooted changes reflect upon its foreign policy principles and state behaviour. Iranian Constitution categorically states that it is for the oppressed people and Iran will come forward against any injustice anywhere in the world.

Learning Outcome:

After completing the course, students will have a good understanding about post-revolutionary Iran's political system. It will also help them to understand Iran's perspective as well as world politics revolves around it.

- I. Iranian Revolution: Roots and Nature of the Revolution
- II. Philosophy of the Iranian Revolution: Selected Works of Iranian Political Thinkers

- III. Historiography of Iran: Social as Political
- IV. Petroleum, Labour and Social Movements: A Social Revolution
- V. Multiple Modernities in Post-Revolutionary Period
- VI. Iran's Constitution [Readings of the selected parts of the Constitution]
- VII. Contemporary Iran under different Iranian Presidents:
 - (a) Abolhassan Banisadr (1980 ----1981)
 - (b) Mohammad Ali Rajai (1981)
 - (c) Ali Khamenei (1981 -- 1989): Survival during Iran-Iraq War
 - (d) Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (1989—1997): Pragmatism and Reconstruction
 - (e) Mohammad Khatami (1997—2005): Dialogue among Civilizations
 - (f) Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005 -- 2013) : Hidden Imam
 - (g) Hassan Rouhani (2013 -- 2021) : Signing of JCPOA
 - (h) Ebrahim Raisi (2021 -- 2024)
 - (i) Masoud Pezeshkian (2024---- till date)
- VIII. Principles of Iran's Foreign Policy

Basic Readings:

Keddie, Nikki R. (2003) Modern Iran (Roots and Results of the Revolution), USA: Yale University Press

Dabashi, Hamid (2017) Theology of Discontent (The Ideological Foundation of Islamic Revolution in Iran), USA: Taylor and Francis

Asef, Bayat (1987) Workers and Revolution in Iran, New York: Zed Books.

Iran's Constitution 1989 Edition, Published by Majles, I.R.I.

Khomeini, Imam, Wilayat-e Faqih (Governance of the Jurists) Islamic Government, Institute for the Compilation and Publications of Imam Khomeini's Works.

Abrahamian, Ervand (2008/2018) A History of Modern Iran, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

Amanat, Abbas (1992/2017) Iran: A Modern History, USA: Yale University Press.

Suggested Reading List (Topic wise)

I. Iranian Revolution: Roots and Nature of the Revolution

Algar, Hamid (2001) Roots of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, USA: Islamic Publications International.

Cooper, Andrew Scott (2016) Fall of Heaven: The Pahlavis and the Final Days of Imperial Iran, U.K.: Henry & Holt.

II. Philosophy of the Iranian Revolution: Selected Works of Iranian Political Thinkers

Gheissari, Ali (1998/2010) Iranian Intellectuals in the 20th Century, Austin: University of Texas.

Jehanbegloo, Ramin (ed) (2020) Mapping the Role of Intellectuals in Iranian Modern and Contemporary History, UK.: Lexington Books.

Lotaki, Seyed Mohammad (2019) Diverging Approaches of Political Islamic Thought in Iran since the 1960s, U.K.: Palgrave Macmillan.

III. Historiography of Iran: Social as Political

Atabaki, Touraj (ed) (2009) Iran in the 20th Century: Historiography and Political Culture, London: I.B. Taurus

Cronin, Stephanie (2021) Social Histories of Iran (Modernism and Marginality in the Middle East, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

Tavakoli-Targhi, Mohamad (2001) Refashioning Iran (Orientalism, Occidentalism and Historiography, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

IV. Petroleum, Labour and Social Movements: A Social Revolution

Atabaki, Touraj (2024) Toiling for Oil: A Social History of Petroleum in Iran, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

Yoshinari, Mary and Afacan, Serhan (ed) (2025) Labour History and the Economy in Iran (Workers, Entrepreneurs and the State), I.B. Tauris.

Foran, John (1994) A Century of Revolution (Social Movements in Iran, USA: University of Minnesota Press.

Poulson, Stephen C. (2005) Social Movements in Twentieth-Century Iran, New York: Lexington Books

Harris, Kevan (2017) A Social Revolution (Politics and Welfare State in Iran, USA: University of California.

V. Multiple Modernities in Post-Revolutionary Period

Mirsepasi, Ali (2000) Intellectual Discourse and the Politics of Modernization: Negotiating Modernity in Iran, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

Aghaie, Kamran Scot and Marashi, Afshin (ed)(2014) Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity, Austin: Texas.

VII. Contemporary Iran under different Iranian Presidents:

Murry, Williamson and Kevin M. Woods (2014) The Iran-Iraq War (A Military and Strategic History), UK: Cambridge University Press.

Ostovar, Afshon (2016) Vanguard of the Imam (Religion, Politics and Iran's Revolutionary Guards), USA : Oxford University Press.

Tazmini, Ghoncheh (2009) Khatami's Iran: The Islamic Republic and The Turbulent Path to Reform,

Akbarzadeh, Shahram and Dara Conduit(2016), Iran in the World: President Rouhani's Foreign Policy, US: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kamrava, Mehran (November 2004) "Suspended Equilibrium in Iran's Political System", *The Muslim World*, 94(4): 495-524.

VIII. Principles of Iran's Foreign Policy

Ramazani, R. (Autumn 2004) "Ideology and Pragmatism in Iran's Foreign Policy", *Middle East Journal*, 58(4), 549-559.

Ramazani, R.K. (Spring, 1989) "Iran's Foreign Policy: Contending Orientations", *Middle East Journal*, 43(2), 202-217.

Ramazani, R.K. (Summer 1992) "Iran's Foreign Policy: Both North and South", *Middle East Journal*, 46(3), 393-412.

Zarif, Mohammad Javad (May/June 2014) "What Iran Really Wants: Iranian Foreign Policy in the Rouhani Era", *Foreign Affairs*, 93(3), 49-54, 55-59.

Rostami-Povey, Ellaheh (2013) Iran's Influence: A Religious-Political State and Society in the Region, London: Zed Books.

Rezaei, Farhad (2019) Iran's Foreign Policy After the Nuclear Agreement (Politics of Normalizers and Traditionalists), Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

Arjomand, Said Amir (2009) After Khomeini: Iran under his Successors, USA: Oxford University Press.

*** *Contemporary Iranian movies will be screened upon the completion of the course.***

