

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Iran and Regional Politics

Lecturer:

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| Course No.: | Course Type : | Weekly Hours : | Credit: |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
| 4688 | Lecture | 2 | 2 |

| Course Requirements : | Group Code : | Language: |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Exam | 201468800 | English |

Prerequisites

Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course Iran and Regional Politics (4688):

4680 - Iran and regional politics

Course Description

The course will examine Iran's national relations with the countries of the region, while focusing on questions such as its identity, resources, interests and strategy. The geo-strategic goals of the Islamic Republic, as they were expressed in the 37 years of its existence, reflect the complexity of the Iranian identity, which encompasses nationalism, Shi'ite sectism and universal Islamic aspirations. Accordingly, the importance of the nuclear program of Iran is rooted in the Islamic Republic's domestic vision, and in its attempts to reach regional hegemony. The nuclear discussions between Iran and the P5+1 shows how dynamic this regime is, and the importance of Iran in the turbulent Middle East.

Course Goals

The purpose of the course is to examine the uniqueness of the Iranian model, its basic components and the potential for flexibility and change in this regime, in order to understand the regional policy of the Islamic Republic. Iran will also serve as a case study for governmental stability in authoritarian regimes, and the components of rationality and irrationality in the decision-making process in these regimes, both nationally and geo-strategically.

Grading

Requirements:

- Presence in classes
 - Come prepared to classes, after you have read the relevant reading materials. It is important to follow the flow of classes and read the relevant articles beforehand
 - Midterm exam (20%) - material will be specified closer to date
 - Final exam (80%)
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Reading List

Reading Material:

1. Iranian Nationalism and the Islamic Revolution

Samih Farsoun and Mehrdad Mashayekhi (eds.), *Iran: Political Culture in the Islamic Republic* (Routledge, 2005), 1-29.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, *Iran in World Politics: The Question of the Islamic Republic* (Columbia University Press, Nov., 2010), 31-82.

2. Political Authority:

Wilfried Buchta, "Who Rules Iran: The Structure of Power in the Islamic Republic", *The Washington Institute* (2000).

3. Rouhani and Foreign Policy:

Suzan Mallony, "Why Rouhani Won -- and why Khamenei Let Him", *Foreign Affairs* (June 16, 2013).

Nazla Fathi, "The Rouhani Paradox", *Foreign Policy* (June 13, 2014).

Dito, Steven, "Reading Rohani: The Promise and Peril of Iran's New President", *The Washington Institute: Policy Focus* 129 (Oct. 2013).

4. Governmental Stability:

Alem, Yasmin. "Duality by Design: The Iranian Electoral System", *International Foundation for Electoral Systems* (2011).

Bunce, Valerie J. and Wolchik Sharon L. "Defeating Dictators: Electoral Change and Stability in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes", *World Politics* 62:1 (Jan., 2010), 43-86.

5. Iran and the Arab Spring:

Elisheva Machlis, "Iran's Spin on the Arab Spring", *Iran Pulse* 46 (Nov 13, 2011).

Charles Kurzman, "The Arab Spring: Ideals of the Iranian Green Movement, Methods of the Iranian Revolution", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 2012.

6. The Nuclear Policy:

Gawdat Baghat, "Nuclear Proliferation: The Islamic Republic of Iran", *Iranian Studies*, 2006.

7. The Competition Between Iran and Saudi Arabia:

Shahram Chubin and Charles Trip, "Iran-Saudi Arabia Relations and Regional Order", *Adelphi Series*, (June 8, 2005).

K Barzegar, "Iran and the Shiite Crescent: Myths and Realities", *Brown J. World Affairs*, 2008.

8. The Pragmatism of the Gulf States:

Christopher M. Davidson, *After the Sheikhs: The Coming Collapse of the Gulf Monarchies* (Oxford University Press, 2013), ebook, 155-190.

Stephanie Cronin and Nur Masalha, "The Islamic Republic of Iran and the GCC States: from Revolution to Realpolitik?", *Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in the Gulf States: LSE*, 17 (Aug., 2011).

9. Iran-Turkey Relations:

F. Stephen Larrabee, Alireza Nader, *Turkish-Iranian Relations in a Changing Middle East RAND* (2013).

10. The Axis of Revolutionary Guards – Syria – Hezbollah

Ali Alfoneh, "The Revolutionary Guards' Role in Iranian Politics", *Middle East Quarterly*, 2008.

“The Rise of the Pasdaran: Assessing the Domestic Roles of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps”, *RAND* (2009).

Bruno, Greg. Bajoria, Jayshree and Masters, Jonathan. “Iran’s Revolutionary Guards”, *Council on Foreign Relations* (updated: June 14, 2013).

11. Resources in Iran:

Suzanne Maloney, "The Revolutionary Economy", *The Iran Primer*

J Barnes, AM Jaffe, “The Persian Gulf and the Geopolitics of Oil”, *Survival* (2006).

12. The Jihadist Threat:

Vali Nasr, *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future* (2007), 145-166.

Hassan Mneimneh, “The Jihadist International: Al Qaeda’s Advance in the Levant”, *American Enterprise Institute* (May 1, 2009).