HISTORY 379

ISLAM IN IRAN

FALL 2005

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2.15, Humanities 1651
Professor David Morgan, Humanities 4113; 263-1826; domorgan@wisc.edu
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12-1

SCOPE OF THE COURSE
The aim of the course is to examine the history of Islam in Iran, against the pre-Islamic religious background of
Iran, from the Arab conquest and the coming of Islam in the 7th century AD to the aftermath of the Islamic
Revolution of 1978/9. It will attempt to situate Iran in the wider context of the Islamic world as well as paying
attention to the distinctive features of Islam which have evolved in Iran, particularly since the 16th century.

REQUIREMENTS
Students will be expected to write two book reviews, of about 2-3 pages each, to be submitted on 4 October and
8 November, and a paper of about 10 pages, to be submitted on 8 December. Books chosen for review should
be directly relevant to the course. Students are at liberty to choose their own topics for their paper, subject to
approval by me: I will offer suggestions for suitable topics and appropriate reading. There will also be a mid-
term quiz and a quiz near the end of the semester, to be taken in class. Students are expected to attend the
lectures, do the reading and be prepared to talk: I prefer, normally, not to lecture non-stop for 75 minutes.

REQUIRED READING
A.M. Ansari, Modern Iran since 1921. The Pahlavis and After (London, 2003)
N.R. Keddie, Modern Iran. Roots and Results of Revolution (New Haven, 2003)
M. Momen, An Introduction to Shi’i Islam. The History and Doctrines of Twelver Shi’ism (New Haven, 1985)
R.P. Mottahedeh, The Mantle of the Prophet: Learning and Power in Modern Iran (London, 1985, and
reprints)

RECOMMENDED READING
A. Bausani, Religion in Iran (New York, 2000)
E.L. Daniel, The History of Iran (Westport, 2001)

LECTURE AND READING LIST
Topics are listed broadly by week during the semester, though we may not stick rigidly to this. Required and
recommended reading is mentioned first; additional reading for those who may wish to explore a particular
topic further then follows.


Look at any general book on the history of Iran, e.g. Daniel, History of Iran, ch 1; A. Bausani, The Persians
(2005), ch. 1; J.W. Limbert, Iran. At War with History (1987), ch 1-3. On pre-Islamic Iran see e.g. R.N. Frye,

2. Religions in pre-Islamic Iran: Zoroaster, Mani, Mazdak.

Required: Foltz, ch 1, 2, 6
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 2-3; Bausani, part 1

3. Muhammad and the early development of Islam. The Arab conquest of Iran.

Required: Momen, ch 1
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 3

4. The Succession to Muhammad and the origins of the Sunni-Shi'i divide. The Shi'i Imams.

Required: Momen, ch 2-3, 7-8

5. Islam in Iran in the early Islamic centuries. The Isma'ilis (Assassins) in Iran.
Required: Foltz, ch. 7; Momen, ch. 4
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 3; Bausani, pp. 146-77; Lewis, *The Assassins*


Required: Foltz, ch. 7; Momen, ch 5, 11
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 3-4; Bausani, pp. 209-37

7. Rise of the Safavids (1300-1500) and the imposition of Shi’ism in the 16th century.

Required: Momen, pp. 105-12; Foltz, ch. 7
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 4; Bausani, pp. 299-325


Required: Momen, pp. 112-30, and ch 13; Foltz, ch. 7
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 5-6; Bausani, ch. 7

9. "Church-state" conflict and accommodation during the Qajar period (19th and early 20th centuries). Emergence of the Babi and Baha’i faiths.

Required: Foltz, ch. 8; Keddie, ch. 1-4; Momen, pp. 130-46, 231-2
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 5-6; Bausani, ch. 8
10. Islam and the state during the Pahlavi period (1921-79).

Required: Ansari, ch 2-6; Keddie, ch. 6-7; Momen, pp. 246-61
Recommended: Daniel, ch. 6-7


11. The education, training and career of a mulla in 20th century Iran.

Required: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*; Keddie, ch. 8


Required: Ansari, ch 7; Keddie, ch. 9; Momen, pp. 282-9
Recommended: Daniel, ch 7-8.


Required: Ansari, ch 8; Foltz, ch. 9; Keddie, ch. 9-10; Momen, pp. 282-99
Recommended: Daniel, ch 8-9


Required: Ansari, ch 8-9; Foltz, ch. 9; Keddie, ch. 11-12