HISTORY 379

ISLAM IN IRAN

SPRING 2007

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30-10.45, Humanities 1641
Professor David Morgan, Humanities 4113; 263-1826; domorgan@wisc.edu
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11-12

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 20 February and 27 March, and a paper of about 10 pages, to be submitted on 1 May. 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 can 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)
M. Momen, An Introduction to Shi'i Islam. The History and Doctrines of Twelver Shi'ism (New Haven, 1985)

RECOMMENDED READING
A.Bausani, Religion in Iran (New York, 2000)
N.R. Keddie, Modern Iran. Roots and Results of Revolution (New Haven, 2006)

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.

Required: Garthwaite, ch. 1-4

2. Religions in pre-Islamic Iran: Zoroaster, Mani, Mazdak.
Required: Foltz, ch 1, 2, 6; Garthwaite, ch. 2, 4
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3. Muhammad and the early development of Islam. The Arab conquest of Iran.

Required: Garthwaite, ch. 5; Momen, ch. 1


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


Required: Foltz, ch. 7; Garthwaite, ch. 5; Momen, ch 5, 11
Recommended: 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; Garthwaite, ch. 6
Recommended: Bausani, pp. 299-325


Required: Momen, pp. 112-30, and ch 13; Foltz, ch. 7
Recommended: 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; Garthwaite, ch. 7; Momen, pp. 130-46, 231-2
Recommended: Bausani, ch. 8; Keddie, ch. 1-4

10. Islam and the state during the Pahlavi period (1921-79).

Required: Ansari, ch 2-6; Garthwaite, ch. 8; Momen, pp. 246-61
Recommended: Keddie, ch. 6-7

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

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


Required: Ansari, ch 7; Garthwaite, ch. 8; Momen, pp. 282-9
Recommended: Keddie, ch. 9
Suggested: The literature on the Islamic Revolution is immense. What follows can only be a selection. See esp. Arjomand, Turban , pp. 75-133; Richard, Shi’ite Islam , ch. 7; Moin, Khomeini, ch 4-10; Richard, Shi’ite Islam, ch. 7. A good general account in Abrahamian, Iran between Two Revolutions, ch 11. M. Parsa, Social Origins of the Iranian Revolution (1989) - an acute analysis which is less mulla-centred than most: see also his very interesting comparative study, States, Ideologies and Social Revolutions. A Comparative Analysis of Iran, Nicaragua and the Philippines (2000). C. Kurzman, The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran (2004) is an interesting new interpretation (or anti-interpretation). How it looked at the time: Fischer, Iran. From Religious Dispute to Revolution; D. Harney, The Priest and the King (1998) - a fascinating eyewitness diary by a British businessman who, earlier in the 1970s, was the MI6 man in the Tehran British embassy; F. Halliday, Iran: Dictatorship and Development (1979) and R. Graham, Iran. The Illusion of Power (1978) illustrate how the build-up to revolution was perceived as it happened - e.g. note how Halliday failed to notice the mullas; A. Parsons, The Pride and the Fall. Iran 1974-1979 (1984) - the engagingly frank memoirs of the British ambassador in Tehran; much may be entertainingly learnt from A. Alam, The Shah and I (1991) - the diary of the Shah's Court Minister and closest confidant; the Shah's own self-justification is in M. Reza Pahlavi, The Shah's Story (1980): for a more objective assessment see M. Zonis, Majestic Failure: the Fall of the Shah (1991). The mullas: the most insight is to be found in Fischer, Iran, and Mottahedeh, The Mantle (but bear in mind that Mottahedeh's Ali Hashemi is anything but a typical mulla); Keddie (ed), Religion and Politics in Iran


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


Required: Ansari, ch. 8-9; Foltz, ch. 9; Garthwaite, ch. 8; Recommended: Keddie, ch. 11-12, and Epilogue in the 2006 edition