

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History

Semester I Year 1986-87

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
573	Undergraduate Studies in Africa, Asia, and Latin America: THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION	Humphreys

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course represents an effort to identify the character and the causes of the Iranian Revolution of 1978-1980. We will try to view this event from both an internal perspective (the dynamics of Iranian society and culture in the 20th century) and an external one (the relations of Iran with foreign powers, in particular Russia, Great Britain, and the United States). Among topics to be investigated: the conflict between monarchical absolutism and constitutionalism in modern Iran; the social values and political orientations developed within Shi'ite thought; the economic stresses created by imperialism and modernization in the late 19th and 20th centuries; secularist alternatives to Shi'ite ideology; the quest for cultural authenticity -- Westernization, traditionalism, nostalgia, and disorientation. The Revolution itself calls for an investigation of three issues: 1) the abrupt collapse of the monarchy; 2) the assertion of political leadership by the Shi'ite clergy; 3) the focusing of popular wrath against external enemies, in particular the United States.

LECTURES

The class will meet on Tuesdays, 2:25 - 4:25.

Except for the first three weeks or so, in which I will try to provide you with a general background in modern Iranian history and Shi'ite Islam, the classes will be in a discussion/colloquium format rather than lectures.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

No examinations or research papers. Students will be asked to keep a journal based on the assigned readings and class discussions. Periodically (at the end of September, October, and November) they will be asked to submit a concise essay (ca. 5 pp.) based on this journal and addressing some aspect of the Iranian Revolution. These will be critiqued for style and content by me, but not graded. At the end of the term, students will submit a longer essay (10-12 pp.) based on this earlier work, in which they will try to define and bring together the various levels of significance of the Revolution.

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F

REQUIRED READINGS

Nikki Keddie, Roots of Revolution: an Interpretive History of Modern Iran
Shaul Bakhash, The Reign of the Ayatollahs
Roy Mottahedeh, The Mantle of the Prophet
Gary Sick, All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter with Iran