

Fall 2009

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 372  
IRAN AND THE MUSLIM WORLD**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. S. Dossa  
Nicholson Hall 513  
867-2105 (voice mail)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon. 12 - 1 pm  
Tues. 2.15 - 4 pm  
Thurs. 1.15 - 3 pm (and by appointment)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An analysis of Iranian politics with focus on the 1979 Revolution, the role of Shiite Islam and Persian culture in shaping the Iranian state, its internal dynamics and its influence in Lebanon and Iraq. We will also consider Iranian relations with the West and Israel. Students will be introduced to the basic tenets of Islam.

**COURSE GRADING:**

Class attendance/participation .....	30%
Essay (due November 19) .....	30%
Final Exam (essay answers) .....	40%

Essay guidelines will be issued in due course.

**TO OBTAIN A PASSING GRADE STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS  
CLASS ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AND STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO CLASS DISCUSSION.**

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Nikki R. Keddie,      MODERN IRAN:  
 ROOTS AND RESULTS OF REVOLUTION

### RESERVE READINGS

S. Alvi,            *The Muslim Veil in North America*  
 J. Bloom,        *Islam*  
 J. Esposito,     *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?*  
 -----,        *Islam and Democracy*  
 D. Hiro,         *Iran under the Ayatollahs*  
 B. Rubin,        *Paved with Good Intentions*  
 D. Kandiyoti,   *Women and the State*  
 N. Keddie,      *Neither East nor West*  
 -----,        *Women in the Muslim World*  
 -----,        *Religion and Politics in Iran*  
 -----,        *The Iranian Revolution and the Islamic Republic*  
 S. Kinzer,       *All the Shah's Men*  
 C. Mohanty,    *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*  
 E. Mortimer     *Faith and Power*

### COURSE OUTLINE

1.     Introduction  
       West, Iran, Islam  
       Knowledge and power  
       "Us" and "Them"
  
2.     Background  
       Pre-Islamic and Islamic  
       Qajars  
       Revolution  
       Reading: Keddie, pp. 1-72
  
3.     War and Reza Shah

Mosaddeq's nationalism  
 CIA Coup  
 Shah and Dictatorship  
 Modernization?  
 Savak and torture

Reading: Keddie, pp. 73-169

4. Iranian Political Thought

Al-e Ahmad, Shariati, Shiism  
 1979 Revolution  
 Khomeini's political theory

Reading: Keddie, pp. 170-239

5. Khomeini's Regime

Irano-Islamic politics  
 West and Israel  
 Iran and the Arabs  
 Oppressed and Oppressors  
 After Khomeini

Reading: Keddie, pp. 240 – 284

6. Culture and Women

West and Muslim women  
 Feminism in Iran  
 Liberation/Westernization ?  
 Democracy

Reading: Keddie, pp. 285- 322

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving ?*  
 (American Anthropologist, Sept. 2002, pp. 783 – 790)

Homa Hoodfar, *Feminist Anthropology and Critical Pedagogy*  
 (Canadian Journal of Education, 17, 3, 1992, pp. 303-320)

Homa Hoodfar, *The Veil in our Minds and on our Heads*

Resources for Feminist Research, Fall/Winter 1993, pp. 5-18

Roksana Bahramitash and Shahla Kazemipour, *Myths and Realities*

*of the impact of Islam on Women (Iran)* (Critique, Summer 2006, pp. 111 – 128)

S. Dossa, *Bad, Bad Multiculturalism!!*, The European Legacy, (October 2005, pp. 641-644)

7. Iran's Rulers and the holocaust

Denied ?

Europe, Jews and Palestinians

Sacred or historical event?

Ant-Semitism and Anti-Zionism

Israel's Second War on Lebanon 2006 (HRW reports)

Reading: S. Dossa, *LRC article (June 2007)*

(see the refs. in the article)

A. Norouzi, "WIPED OFF THE MAP" - *The Rumour of the Century* (<http://democracyrising.us/content/view/736/164/>;  
[www.informationclearinghouse.info/article16218.htm](http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article16218.htm))

V. Tilley, *Putting Words in Ahmadinejad's Mouth*

([Counterpunch - www.counterpunch.org/tilley08282006.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/tilley08282006.html))

8. Current Politics

Ahmadinejad's Challenge

US/Israeli threats

Future prospects?

Reading: Keddie, pp. 323 – 347.

**JOURNALS**

*Alternatives*  
*Asian Survey*  
*Canadian Journal of Development*  
*Comparative Studies in Society and History*  
*Critique*  
*Current History*  
*Journal of Asian Studies*  
*Journal of Democracy*  
*Middle East Report*  
*New Statesman*  
*The Nation*  
*Race and Class*  
*Third World Quarterly*  
*World Development*

[www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org)

[www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org)

[www.bourque.org](http://www.bourque.org)

### ***Pro Quest***

*Arab Studies Quarterly*  
*Arms Control Today*  
*British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (1997-2000)*  
*Critique*  
*Current History*  
*The Economist*  
*Foreign Affairs*  
*International Journal on World Peace*  
*Islam & Christian Muslim Relations (1998-2000)*  
*Journal of Arab Affairs (1981-1993)*  
*Journal of Democracy*  
*Journal of International Affairs*  
*Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*  
*Journal of Palestine Studies*  
*Middle East*  
*The Middle East Business and Economic Review*  
*The Middle East Journal*  
*Middle East Policy*  
*Middle Eastern Studies (1995-2002)*  
*The Muslim World*  
*The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*

*The Wilson Quarterly*  
*World Policy Journal*

***Jstor***

*British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*  
*International Affairs*  
*International Journal of Middle East Studies*  
*Journal of Palestine Studies*  
*Middle East Report*  
*Studia Islamica*

***Oxford University Press Journals***

*Journal of Islamic Studies*  
*Journal of Refugee Studies*  
*Journal of Semitic Studies*  
*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*  
*Journal of Theological Studies*

***Project Muse***

*Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*  
*International Security*  
*Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*  
*Radical History Review*  
*The Washington Quarterly*