PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY (Fall 2014)
PS 410: US-IRAN RELATIONS (4 Credits)
A fully online course
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: A proper understanding of contemporary American Iranian relations requires knowledge of America's role in post-World War II political, social, and economic changes in Iran. This course traces the history of U.S. Iranian relations since the time of the early American missionary activities in Iran. It examines the American involvement in Iran with reference to economic objectives, military assistance, strategic needs, and foreign policy interests.

CLASS CONTENT: Among issues discussed in class are: United States' Middle East policy; the Neo-conservatives’ vision of Iran and the Middle East; Iran’s Neo-conservatives, Iran's theocratic regime; Iran’s political elite’s perception of the world; Iran’s presidential election crisis and popular support for democracy and civil society; political significance of the Persian Gulf and Iran; Iran’s relations with Europe and neighboring states; support for America democratic values among Iranian population; Iran’s Islamization, democratization, and Westernization; Iranians in the United States and their roles in US-Iranian relations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: After taking this course you are expected to:

1. Identify the historical roots of contemporary US-Iran relations;

2. Discuss the interrelation between religion and politics in Iran, and the current Iranian regime's perception of the world

2. Explain the role that America has played to protect her "interests" in Iran and the Gulf;

3. Identify the roots of international terrorism.

REQUIRED READINGS:

William O Beeman, The "Great Satan" vs. the "Mad Mullahs": How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other, University of Chicago Press, 2008 (ISBN: 10: 0226041476)
