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. have a better understanding of the historical roots of contemporary US-Iran relations;

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

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

3. understand 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)


**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**


1. **ACCESS TO WORKING COMPUTER:** to take this course you will need to have access to a working computer with Internet access, which can allow you to connect to our class site.

2. **AVAILABILITY OF READING MATERIAL**
The course is based on textbook reading plus outside research. The texts are available through Portland State University Bookstore. You need your required textbooks to do the weekly assignments. It is your responsibility to purchase your textbooks on time. Lack of access to the textbooks cannot be used as an excuse for not doing the weekly assignments.

3. **MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:** you are expected to read the assigned weekly material and have a reasonable understanding of issues discussed by your textbooks. Your comprehension of reading materials will be tested through biweekly quizzes and critical thinking essays. To satisfy the course requirements, you need to complete four quizzes, respond to four biweekly critical thinking questions, and write a review analysis paper explaining your understanding of US-Iran relations based on our required readings, class activities and your own analysis of the information.

   **A. BI-WEEKLY CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS:** to better understand the issues discussed by your text and current crisis with regard to US-Iran relations you will write four critical thinking essays throughout the term. For each critical thinking assignment you will respond to at least two other students' essays. Your critical thinking essays and your responses will account for 100 points or one third of your total 300 points for the course. Each essay will be worth 25 points (15 for your own posted essay and the remaining 10 points for participating in our class discussions and making comments on at least two other essays posted by your fellow students.) Essays should be at least 750 words and have to be submitted before the assigned deadlines. Your essays should display your comprehension of concepts covered by your textbooks, which are related to your essay. In addition to your textbooks you need to use at least two outside sources (articles from academic journals, Internet sites, book chapters, etc.)
need to clearly cite the information for your outside sources (i.e. author, article name, year of publication, journal/book name, Internet site, etc.) at the bottom of your posted essay. Failing to cite the above information will result in point deductions from your assignment. You need to post your essays on our Discussion Board under the assigned number. You need to preview your essays for clarity before posting them for others to see. There should be one space between your consequent paragraphs. If you do not know how to post correctly contact our distance learning technician for assistance.

To post your first Critical Thinking Essay do the following:

1. Click on "Discussions" (at the top of the page);
2. Scroll down and click on "Critical Thinking Essay Question # 1." Read the given question carefully;
3. Click on "Compose." On the "Subject" box and write your name, the name that you want to pick for your essay or simply type CTE 1 (make sure your name is always included in the subject box);
4. In the "Message" box type your essay or copy and paste it from another program that you might have used to write your essay;
5. Click on "Preview" (the small icon on the lower left of message box) to see if your essay is readable and there is one space between your consequent paragraphs. Also check for possible spelling and grammatical errors. Finally make sure you have cited your references correctly according to the rules indicated above;
6. Click on "Post" (on the lower right corner of the page) when you are happy with the quality and appearance of your essay;
7. After posting your essay go back to the Discussion page and make sure your essay has been posted properly.

Note: Do not post your essay as an attachment; Attached essays are not shown in instructor's grading section of the site, so I will not accept essays as attachments. You can type your essay using Word or another program and copy and paste it to our Discussion Board. This way you can make sure your essay is spell-checked and ready to go. Make sure to post your essay before the deadline. Late says will not be accepted. If you have problem posting your essay correctly contact our distance learning technicians for assistance. Essays with distorted appearances (ex. without one blank space between consequent paragraphs; unnecessary font and color changes, invisible lines stretching beyond the visible screen page) will be marked down while grading.

Comments/Responses: As I indicated above you also need to read the essays and comments by other students and respond (i.e., make comments) to at least two of them for each assignment. Your responses/comments should be substantial in content and express your understanding of issues in hand (It should go beyond simply complementing the person for the essay.) Each of your comments should be at least 100 words. For posting your comments simply click on "Reply" and type your comments. When replying to other students' posts, please start your comments by addressing their names, so everybody knows whom you are responding to, and will avoid unnecessary confusions helping me with my grading process.
Grading Criteria for your 750-word Critical Thinking Essay and Responses
1. The academic quality of the essay including content, coherence, organization, relevance to the topic, and referring to your sources within the body of your paper. Your essay needs to be more analytical than descriptive.
2. Focusing on the assigned topic and avoiding going off on tangents.
3. Using the required texts plus at least two outside academic sources with complete citations.
4. Citing your references clearly, indicating the authors' names, publication dates, articles' titles, and sources for material that you have used for writing your essay respectively (if your article does not include author's name, either avoid that article or use it as an additional one to the two required references with full citations. You need to have at least two outside academic sources with complete citations including authors' names.) Assignments without proper citations will lose points.
5. Not using “Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia" as one of your two required outside academic sources. Also any other sources without author or article title will not be accepted. Do not trust the content of any article without a revealed author. Make sure to find scholarly articles with authors' names and publication dates being revealed.
6. Previewing your essay for clarity and readability before posting. Making sure that your essay is not all lumped together and there is one space between consequent paragraphs.
7. Previewing your essay for spelling and grammatical errors;
8. Responding to at least two other students' postings with substantial arguments of minimum of 100 words.
10. Any sign of plagiarism will result in zero grades (see section 9 below in your syllabus ;)

B. WEEKLY QUIZZES: There will be a total of four quizzes testing your comprehension of the reading material. Quizzes are mainly multiple choice and true/false questions. Each quiz will cover material from the readings for particular weeks. There are a total of four quizzes, which will worth 100 points of your total 300 points for the course.

To take your quiz 1:
1. Click on "Quizzes" under 'Activities' on the bar above homepage;
2. Click on "Quiz 1" under "Current Quizzes";
3. Click on "Start Quiz" on the top right and then when asked for confirmation click on "OK";
4. Select the correct answer for each question and click the "Save" box (Note: there is only one correct answer for each question);
5. When you finish answering all the questions click on "Save All Responses" box at the bottom of the test;
6. When you are ready to submit your quiz click on "Go to Submit Quiz" at lower right corner of the page;
7. When you see the "Quiz Submission Confirmation" page click on "Submit Quiz" and then confirm it by clicking on "Yes;"
8. Now, you can see your score and the right answers for all the quiz questions.

Note: Please make sure to submit your quizzes before the assigned deadlines. Do not wait until the last moments to take your quizzes because if something goes wrong you may not be able to seek technical help. Quizzes will automatically disappear after their assigned deadlines and late quizzes will not be accepted.
A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ANALYSIS PAPERS: your final review analysis paper should demonstrate your understanding of the US-Iran relations based on our required readings, our class discussions, your independent research, and your own intellectual analysis of the information. Your essay should be documented, analytical, and demonstrate an understanding and synthesis of issues discussed by the course. Your Essay should be about 2500 words. Your review essay is due March 16. In addition to posting your own review analysis paper you need to read other students’ papers and make comments on at least two other students' papers. Your comments are due March 18. There are a total of 100 points, 80 points for your paper and 20 points for your comments.

Your paper will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Careful understanding, analysis, and evaluation of our required readings, documentaries, and our class discussions;

- Drawing thoughtful connections between the readings, documentaries, and discussions;

- Clear statements of ideas, arguments, and thesis;

- Creativity and imagination;

- Correct and graceful use of language;

- Coherence and organization in developing the essay;

- Using an acceptable reference system supporting ideas and thesis.

ALTERNATIVE FINAL INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PAPER: Instead of the review analysis paper, you can select a topic of your choice with regard to US-Iran Relations and write a short research paper (3,000 to 4,000 words.) Like review essays, papers are also due March 16 before midnight. You need to post your paper proposal on our Discussion Board under assigned heading before the midnight of February 15. In your proposal indicate the title of your paper, statement of the problem, research methodology, and sample of your sources. You need to have at least two academic books and five articles (published in peer-reviewed journals) about your topic as your main sources. There are a total of 100 points, 80 points for your paper and 20 points for your comments.

While writing your paper please consider the following:

1) Consider your classmates as your target audience.

2) Have a clear focus throughout your paper, and avoid being distracted by non-related arguments.

3) Use the recent scholarly literature on the subject to support your statements and arguments.
4) Choose a proper reference system for the sources that you use throughout your paper. Your list of references should indicate the author(s), year of publication, and the name of the book or journal being used. While using internet sites, you need to reveal the complete address for the sites used, and authors and/or organizations responsible for the information acquired from the site. Your notes can be located at the bottom of the page (footnotes) or together at the end of the paper (endnotes). (Clearly identify the dates and sources for your statistical data).

5) Avoid making errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Proofread your paper carefully or have a friend to do it for you. Follow a particular writing style (i.e. APA) and Utilize the spell-check if you are using computer software.

4. GRADING CRITERIA
There are a total of 300 possible points with 100 points belonging to biweekly quizzes, 100 points belonging to biweekly critical thinking essays, and 100 points belonging to your final review analysis paper (or independent paper.) If you have taken this course as pass/no pass, in order to pass the course you need to make the minimum points required for a C- grade. Grading is based on the following breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300-279</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>278-270</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>269-258</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>257-249</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>248-240</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>239-228</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>227-219</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>218-210</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>209-198</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>197-180</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179-150</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>149-0</td>
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5. ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES
With the exception of the first quiz which is available the first day of the term each quiz will become available on Thursday and will remain available until its due date which is the second following Sunday before midnight. So each assignment will remain available for a total of 10 days and will give you plenty of time to complete the assignment. This will be the case until the end of the term. Critical Thinking essays are also due every other week by Sunday before midnight..

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Dates Due by midnight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1/ CTE 1</td>
<td>January 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to CTE 1</td>
<td>January 26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 6. WEEKLY READINGS AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

**WEEKS 1 and 2 (Jan 6-19):** Introduction to the course; Understanding Iran

a. Start reading A History of Modern Iran by Abrahamian

b. watch the documentary: Inside Iran: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC0IE-GFNHg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC0IE-GFNHg)

c. Finish reading A History of Modern Iran

d. watch the following documentaries:
   - Iran - The Fall of a Shah: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8fxWch48Dw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8fxWch48Dw)
   - Declassified: Ayatollah Khomeini: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYt80jYwPQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYt80jYwPQ). This is an excellent documentary interviewing several journalists, politicians and scholars including your textbook author Ervand Abrahimian about rise of Khomeini and changing US-Iranian relations.

e. Post your Critical Thinking Essay 1 on our Discussion board

f. complete the questions in Quiz 1

**WEEK 3 (Jan 20-26):** Pre-World War II US/Iranian Relations; the Constitution Revolution of 1906; ethnic insurgencies; Reza Shah’s reign; Iran between the two wars; World War II and Iran; CIA, Mohammad Mosaddeq and the 1953 Coup in Iran; Demonization and misperception

a. Read: Beeman: chapters 1 and 2; Ansari: chapters 1 and 2

b. watch the documentary by Bill Moyers: The Secret Government (The CIA activities in Iran and....) at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oKLD59ajVU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oKLD59ajVU). For complete program see: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEG8mBNe9Io](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEG8mBNe9Io)

c. Post your comments on Critical Thinking Essay 1 on our Discussion board
WEEK 4 (Jan 27-Feb 2): Mohammad Reza Shah’s Regime; the White Revolution (Shah & People Revolution ;) Successes and Failures, SAVAC; Roots of Iranian Revolution, American and Iranian Rhetoric

a. Read: Beeman: chapters 3 and 4; Ansari: chapter 3
b. watch the documentaries:
   Operation Ajax - Iran and the CIA: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzS5Y1f8zVM&list=PL733691E85540EED3](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzS5Y1f8zVM&list=PL733691E85540EED3)
   Secrets of the Iranian Coup Revealed by Former CIA Agent: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKRPRji_lxo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKRPRji_lxo)
c. Post your Critical Thinking Essay 2 on our Discussion board
d. complete the questions in Quiz 2

WEEK 5 (Feb 3-9): The Iranian Revolution; Khomeini’s era; Islamization of Iran; changes in foreign relations; America becoming the “Great Satan”; Iran becoming the den of “Mad Mullahs”

a. Read: Beeman: chapters 5 and 6; Ansari: chapter 4
b. Watch the following documentaries:
   Iran: The Most Dangerous Country: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwStjKAf59w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwStjKAf59w)
c. Post your comments on Critical Thinking Essay 2 on our Discussion board

WEEK 6 (Feb 10-16): Iran-Iraq War and its consequences; the Gulf War and its consequences; the framework of US-Iranian Relations

a. Read: Beeman: 7; Ansari: chapter 5
b. Watch the following documentaries:
   Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif explains Iran’s nuclear program (September 2013): [http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/video/week-exclusive-irans-foreign-minister-zarif-20411932](http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/video/week-exclusive-irans-foreign-minister-zarif-20411932);
   Moving Beyond War: US-Iran Relations (2012): In this documentary Bill Moyers interviews Andrew Bacevich, a West Point graduate and Vietnam veteran and now a professor of History
and International Studies at Boston University
(http://billmoyers.com/episode/moving-beyond-war/)

c. Post your Critical Thinking Essay 3 on our Discussion board

d. complete the questions in Quiz 3

e. Those of you who chose to do the Independent Research Paper (instead of Review Essay Analysis) need to submit a proposal before the midnight of Feb 15 on our Discussion Board

**WEEK 7 (Feb 17-23):** Post-Khomeini Iran; the emergence of the Neo-Conservatives in America and Iran; Iran becoming an Axis of Evil; US occupation of Iraq and Iran’s reactions; The “Sins” committed by Iran and by the US

a. Read: Beeman: chapters 8 and 9; Ansari: chapters 6, 7

b. watch the following documentaries:
   Iran is not the problem: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8Jg41szSg4

c. Post your comments on Critical Thinking Essay 3 on our Discussion board

**WEEK 8 (Feb 24-March 2):** US-Iranian relations: cultural perspectives; Iranians in the US; The future of US-Iranian relations? Postmodern discourse

a. Read: Beeman: chapters 10 and 11; Ansari: Conclusion and Afterward

b. Watch the following documentaries:
   Hassan Rouhani full interview with Amanpour (Sept 2013): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uZXXgm4cv8

c. Post your Critical Thinking Essay 4 on our Discussion board

d. complete the questions in Quiz 4

**WEEK 9 (March 3-9)**

a. Post your comments on Critical Thinking Essay 4 on our Discussion board.

b. work on your final review analysis paper
WEEK 10 (March 10-16)

a. Post your final paper on our Discussion Board not later than the midnight of March 16

b. Post your comments on at least two other students’ papers not later than March 18

c. March 19 is the deadline for optional book reviews.

7. EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS:

1. FOOD-FOR-THOUGHT DISCUSSIONS: Food-for-thought questions have been designed for generating further class discussions. Those of you who participate in our discussions or post your own questions for further discussions will be given extra credits. You can earn up to 15 extra points for fully participating in our all food-for-thought discussions.

2. BOOK REVIEWS: you can earn up to 30 extra credits by selecting two of your recommended books (listed above in your syllabus) and write reviews about them. For each book you choose you need to write a 1500-word review, discussing the main arguments presented by the author (s) and compare and contrast them with your required books. Each review when done properly would worth 15 extra points. You can review up to two books for a total of 30 extra points. The last day to post your reviews is March 19.

8. YOUR INSTRUCTOR
I would like to welcome you all to my class. I am an Iranian American by ethnicity, and have lived in the US since 1976, three years in Texas and the rest of it in Eugene and Portland. My background is in both science and social science, and I teach both. I have a master of science degree in Agricultural Mechanization from Texas A & I (now merged with Texas A & M) University, and M.A. and Ph.D. in geography from the University of Oregon and have taught for PSU since 1989. I believe that critical thinking is an essential part of education and I will provide my students with plenty of chances to do just that. My classes are usually interactive and students have plenty of opportunities to discuss their ideas and reading assignments in a comfortable setting. For a more effective teaching, in addition to written material, I often utilize the audio-visual equipment to enhance my students' understanding of issues covered by the course. Among material that I use are some of the PBS educational documentaries. My regional specialty and research area is the Middle East (Southwest Asia and North Africa). I am mainly interested in issues of development in developing countries. Sustainable development, ecology, and spirituality and religion are among my favorite topics. I have written several books and various articles dealing with issues mentioned above.

9. COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES
Our communication is mainly through our class D2L site. I am usually available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but I check my mails once a day. If you have any questions just send me a mail. Usually you'll get a response from me within 48 hours.

10. CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM
Any type of cheating and plagiarism will lead to zero point, and if repeated you may fail the course. Your essays and other writings have to be your own words and ideas. Whenever you use other people's ideas you need to give them the due credit and reveal your sources at the bottom of your essay. Any sentence which is borrowed from another writer should be in quotation marks. Please see the following source for ways to avoid accidental/intentional plagiarism: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/