

**Centre for West Asian Studies
School of International Studies**

Course	PhD
Course No:	WA608N
Course Title:	Politics and Foreign Policy of Iran since the Revolution
Course Type	Optional
Course Teacher	Dr. Sima Baidya
Credits:	Two
Contact Hours	Two per week

Course Objectives: The course aims at understanding post-revolutionary Iran's politics from Iranian perspective. This is an attempt to decipher the Iranian political mind and its linkages with its history, philosophy and political thought. This course looks into the diverse intellectual tradition along with the idea of enlightenment that ushered in the history of movements in the pre-revolutionary period. The course explains, it is a long process of defiance, dissent and protests, which culminated in the Iranian revolution of 1979. The course lays emphasis on the ulema-state relations in the pre and post-revolutionary period. It is obvious that unbroken linkages between them strengthen the religiosity of Iran and defines the nature of the state. After the revolution, by a referendum, Iran became Islamic Republic of Iran. Subsequently, new Iranian constitution was formulated after a due deliberation of the Constituent Assembly. In the new constitution, Islam becomes the governing principle of the state and Vilayat-e-Faqih is at the helm of the affairs. Post-revolutionary Iran started new political institution building, like, Guardian Council, Assembly of Experts etc. and formed the base of new Iranian political system. The course outlines the transformation of Iranian society. The deep rooted changes reflect upon its foreign policy principles and state behaviour. Iranian Constitution categorically states that it is for the oppressed people and Iran will come forward against any injustice anywhere in the world.

Learning Outcomes: After completing the course, students will have a good understanding about post-revolutionary Iran's political system. It will also help them to understand Iran's perspective as well as world politics revolves around it.

Evaluation Methods: Term paper, Assignments and End Semester Examination.

Course Content

- I. Iranian Revolution: Roots and Nature of the Revolution
- II. Iran's Constitution [Readings of the selected parts of the Constitution]
- III. Vilayat-e-Faqih
- IV. Supreme Leaders: Imam Khomeini and Ayatollah Khamenei
- V. Iranian Presidents:
(a) Abolhassan Banisadr (1980---1981)

- (b) Mohammad Ali Rajai (1981)
- (c) Ali Khamenei (1981---1989): Survival during Iran-Iraq War
- (d) Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (1989—1997): Pragmatism and Reconstruction
- (e) Mohammad Khatami (1997—2005): Dialogue among Civilizations
- (f) Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005---2013) : Hidden Imam
- (g) Hassan Rouhani (2013---2021) : Signing of JCPOA
- (h) Ebrahim Raisi (2021---till date)

VI. Principles of Iran’s Foreign Policy

Basic Readings:

Keddie, Nikki R. (2003) *Modern Iran (Roots and Results of the Revolution)*, USA: Yale University Press

Dabashi, Hamid (2017) *Theology of Discontent (The Ideological Foundation of Islamic Revolution in Iran)*, USA: Taylor and Francis

Asef Bayat (1987) *Workers and Revolution in Iran*, New York: Zed Books.

Iran’s Constitution 1989 Edition, Published by Majles, I.R.I.

Khomeini, Imam, *Wilayat-e Faqih (Governance of the Jurists) Islamic Government*, Institute for the Compilation and Publications of Imam Khomeini’s Works.

Amanat, Abbas(1992/2017) *Iran: A Modern History*, USA: Yale University Press.

Suggested Reading List (Topic wise)

Topic I

Algar, Hamid (2001) *Roots of the Islamic Revolution in Iran*. USA: Islamic Publications International.

Cooper, Andrew Scott (2016) *Fall of Heaven: The Pahlavis and the Final Days of Imperial Iran*, U.K.: Henry & Holt.

Topic II

Gohardani, Fardad and Tizro, Zahra (2019) *The Political Economy of Iran: Development, Revolution and Political Violence*, US: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kamrava, Mehran (November 2004) “Suspended Equilibrium in Iran’s Political System”, *The Muslim World*, 94(4): 495-524.

Topic III

Ibrahim Moussawi(2012) *Shi’ism and Democratization Process in Iran* :With a Focus on Wilayat al-Faqih, Saqi Books.

Topic IV

Algar, Hamid (1999) *Imam Khomeini (A Short Biography)*, The Institute for the Compilation and Publication of the Works of Imam Khomeini.

Murphy, John (2008) *Ali Khamenei*, New York: Chelsea House.

Topic V

Murry, Williamson and Kevin M. Woods (2014) *The Iran-Iraq War (A Military and Strategic History)*, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Ostovar, Afshon (2016) *Vanguard of the Imam (Religion, Politics and Iran's Revolutionary Guards)*, USA : Oxford University Press.

Tazmini, Ghoncheh (2009) *Khatami's Iran: The Islamic Republic and The Turbulent Path to Reform*,

Akbarzadeh, Shahram and Dara Conduit(2016), *Iran in the World: President Rouhani's Foreign Policy*, US: Palgrave Macmillan.

Topic VI

Arjomand, Said Amir (2009) *After Khomeini: Iran under his Successors*, USA: Oxford University Press.

Ramazani, R. (Autumn 2004) "Ideology and Pragmatism in Iran's Foreign Policy", *Middle East Journal*, 58(4), 549-559.

Ramazani, R.K. (Spring, 1989) "Iran's Foreign Policy: Contending *Orientations*", *Middle East Journal*, 43(2), 202-217.

Ramazani, R.K. (Summer 1992) "Iran's Foreign Policy: Both North and South", *Middle East Journal*, 46(3), 393-412.

Rezaei, Farhad (2019) *Iran's Foreign Policy After the Nuclear Agreement (Politics of Normalizers and Traditionalists)*, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

Rostami-Povey, Ellaheh (2013) *Iran's Influence: A Religious-Political State and Society in the Region*, London: Zed Books.

Zarif, Mohammad Javad (May/June 2014) "What Iran Really Wants: Iranian Foreign Policy in the Rouhani Era", *Foreign Affairs*, 93(3), 49-54, 55-59.

*** Contemporary Iranian movies will be screened upon the completion of the course.**