Tentative Course Outline.

History 78000                                      The Iranian Revolution in Comparative Perspective

Professor: Ervand Abrahamian            Spring 2012

The course will explore how diverse theoretical approaches—Structural, Cultural, Weberian-Durkheimian, Behavioral, Intellectual, Discourse, Mobilization (Tillian) Feminist, and Marxist--have been used to explain the causes of the 1979 Revolution in Iran.

Requirements:
1. Seminar Participation.
2. A ten-minute presentation of 7-page report on any of the required books.
3. Twenty-page (5000 word) paper on an in-depth study of any one of the major approaches using works in the recommended list. Paper due in the last week of class.

Required Books: (Barnes & Nobles at 17th St and 5th Ave have the books)
1. Michael Fischer, Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution (Harvard)
2. Ali Gheissari, Iranian Intellectuals in the twentieth Century (Texas)
5. Ervand Abrahamian, The Iranian Mojahedin (Yale)
6. Marvin Zonis, Majestic Failure (out of print)

Required Articles (obtained through JSOR via library internet):
Course Outline

Week 1  
Significance of the Revolution  
Major issues in the study of revolutions in general and of the Iranian Revolution in particular

Week 2  
Approaches to the Study of Revolutions  
Lawrence Stone, “Theories of Revolution” (article in World Politics)  
Davies, “Towards a Theory of Revolution”  
Shaul Bakhash, “Iran” (Historiographical Review), American Historical Review Vol. 96, No. 5 (December 1991), 1479-96.

Narrative  

Week 3  
Structural Explanation  

Week 4  
Cultural Explanation  
Michael Fischer, Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution (Harvard)  
Recommended: Roy Mottahedeh, Mantle of the Prophet

Week 5  
Weberian-Durkheimian Approach  

Week 6  
Intellectual Approach  
Ali Gheissari, Iranian Intellectuals in the Twentieth Century  
Recommended: Hamid Dabashi, Theology of Discontent  
Nabavi, Intellectuals and the State in Iran  
Ali Mirsepassi, Intellectual Discourse and the Politics of Modernization in Iran

Week 7  
Discourse Approach  
Recommended: Moadell, Class, Politics, and Ideology in the Iranian Revolution

8 Behavioral Explanation
Charles Kurzman, The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran (Harvard)

9 Collective Action Approach
Recommended: Parsa, States, Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Iran, Nicaragua and the Philippines

10 Feminist Approach
Parvin Paidar, Women and the Political Process in Twentieth-Century Iran

11 “Great Men” Approach
Marvin Zonis, Majestic Failure (Chicago)
Recommended: Abbas Milani, The Shah Afkhami, Life and Times of the Shah

12 Neo-Marxist Approach
Abrahamian, The Iranian Mojahedin

13-14 Discussion on the Iranian Revolution compared and contrasted with other Classic Revolutions

Additional English Language Works on the Iranian Revolution
Abrahamian, E., Iran Between Two Revolutions.
----------------------, Khomeinism.
----------------------, Tortured Confessions.
Amuzegar, J. The Dynamics of the Iranian Revolution
----------------------, “Charisma, Theocracy, and Men of Power,” in The Politics of Social Transformation in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan (Edited by M. Weiner &
A. Banuazizi), 101-51.
Bashiriyyeh, H., The State and Revolution in Iran.
Bayat, A. Workers and Revolution in Iran.
Boroujerdi, M., Iranian Intellectuals and the West.
Chehabi, H. Iranian Politics and Religious Modernism.
Enayat, H. Modern Islamic Political Thought
Foran, J. (Edit), A Century of Revolution: Social Movements in Iran.
Graham, R. Iran: The Illusion of Power.
Green, J. Revolution in Iran: The Politics of Countermobilization
Hooglund, E. Twenty Years of Islamic Revolution.
Kapuscinski, R. Shah of Shahs.
Khalilzad, Z., The Government of God: Iran’s Islamic Republic
Katouzian, H., The Political Economy of Modern Iran.
Ledeen, M. Debaacle: The American Failure in Iran
Lenczowski, G. (Ed). Iran Under the Pahlavis
McDaniel, T., Autocracy, Modernization and Revolution in Russia and Iran.
Milani, M., The Making of Iran’s Islamic Revolution.
Moaddel, Class, Politics, and Ideology in the Iranian Revolution.
Moin, B., Khomeini: Life of the Ayatollah.
Nabavi, N. Intellectuals and the State in Iran.
Paidar, P. Women and the Political Process in Twentieth-Century Iran.
Sanasarian, Eliz. The Women’s Rights Movement in Iran.
Saikal, A., The Rise and Fall of the Shah.

Major Works on Comparative Revolutions

Arendt, H. On Revolution
Aron, Raymond. Sociological Thought.
Brinton, Crane. Anatomy of Revolution (1938)
Calvert, Peter. Revolution (1979)
Cohen, G. Karl Marx’s Theory of History
Draper, Marx’s Theory of Revolution.
Dunn, J. Modern Revolutions
Edwards, Lyford., The Natural History of Revolution (1927)
Eisenstadt, S., Revolution and the Transformation of Societies
Friedrich, Carl (Editor), Revolution (Special Issue of Namos, Vol. VIII.
Friedland, N. Revolutionary Theory.
Goldstone, J. Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative and Historical Studies.
Greene, T., Comparative Revolutionary Movements
Gurr, T. Why Men Rebel
Hagopian, Mark. The Phenomenon of Revolution (1964)
Johnson, Chalmers. Revolutionary Change
Kimmel, M. Revolution: A Sociological Interpretation.
Marx. K. On Revolution (Edited by S. Padover).
Mazlish, B. (Edit), Revolution: A Reader.
Parker, N. Revolutions and History.
Richards, M. Revolutions in World History.
Skocpol, T. States and Social Revolution.
Tilly, Charles. From Mobilization to Revolution
Wertheim, W. Evolution and Revolution.