

COURSE DETAIL

IRAN AND THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University

Program(s)

Utrecht University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science History

UCEAP Course Number

148

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

IRAN AND THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

UCEAP Transcript Title

IRAN & MODRN ME POL

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The modern history of Iran has been tumultuous, full of revolts, revolutions and reversals. Key political developments in the nineteenth century included the impact of European political philosophies and Western educational systems, the Tobacco Revolt (1891), the Constitutional Revolution (1906-1911) and its aftermath, the rise of feminist movements and its effects in the revolutionary uprising in 2022. Pivotal events in the twentieth century included the rise of the Pahlavi dynasty and the modernization project, the nationalization of oil production, the CIA-staged coup that removed the democratically-chosen Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq (1882-1967), the White Revolution and urbanization, the repression of intellectuals and the 1979 Revolution, the hostage crisis, the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88), and the consolidation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These events have been followed in recent decades by reforms and most recently, the revolutionary uprising with the powerful slogan “Women, Life, and Freedom” (*zan, zendegi, azadi*). The year 1979 marked the start of several weighty political developments in the Middle East, which have considerably changed the region and international relations. The rivalry between Iran and Saudi-Arabia, the Shiite-Sunni divide, the role of Iran in Afghanistan, the ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and Hizballah in Lebanon are among topics which are going to be treated in this course. The course surveys this period from the perspectives of Iranians, seeing how they view their own history and use religious tenets, poetry, art and material culture to contribute to the modernization of their country. The course address how they positioned Iran in the regional and international political settings? While secondary sources are used to examine Iran’s modern history, key primary sources are introduced in translation, to show how Iranians look at their own history in relation to their neighbors and Western powers.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

IA3V21002

Host Institution Course Title

IRAN AND THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Host Institution Course Details

<https://osiris-student.uu.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/cursus>

Host Institution Campus

Utrecht University

Host Institution Faculty

Faculty of Humanities

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department****Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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