



MDES 213

Iran: From Antiquity to Modernity

Mon. & Wed., 5:00-6:20pm, CPA 109

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This course examines the history of Iran from antiquity to the modern era, emphasizing the complex and contingent interplay of continuity, rupture, resurrection, and transformation that has marked the country's long history. Conscious of the nationalist myths that has been built around Iranian premodernity and structured largely, though not exclusively, in a chronological fashion, the course is designed to help students build a framework for understanding contemporary claims regarding Iran's ancient and medieval past. Moreover, *Iran: From Antiquity to Modernity* emphasizes the permeability and multiplicity of Iranian- and Persian-ness over the millennia, highlighting both change over time within Iran as well as the strong cultural and social links that language and culture have formed across the Middle East, Central Asia, and northern India.

Readings:

It is expected that you read everything assigned before class begins unless otherwise specified. All readings will be either from the required texts or provided as PDFs on the course website. Iran has a long and complicated history; if something is unclear or you are not sure where to start then please feel free to come see me.