



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 393 - History of Iran from the Sasanians to the Safavids

Alexandra Hoffmann

This course presents an exploration of the history of Iran from the Sasanian Empire to the Safavid dynasty, focusing on the historical, social, and religious dynamics that shaped the region. Throughout the course, you will engage with primary sources such as historiographical texts, mirrors for princes, travelogues, and poetic works. The course will also comprise an opportunity to study material culture, examining the significance of artifacts in societal structures, religious practices, and artistic expressions. You will develop historical thinking skills, hone critical analysis of pre-modern source materials, and gain a comprehensive insight into the historical, cultural, and religious landscapes of Iran, developing an appreciation for its place in the global pre-modern world and its enduring legacy.

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

The *Kârnâmag î Ardashîr î Babagân* (*Book of the Deeds of Ardashir son of Babak*), see <http://www.avesta.org/mp/karname.htm>

Peter Jackson, *The Mongols and the Islamic World: From Conquest to Conversion* (Yale University Press, 2017), Chapter 1 “Medieval Authors on the Mongols,” 14-45.

Kathryn Babayan, “The Safavids in Iranian History (1501-1722),” in *The Oxford Handbook of Iranian History*, ed. Touraj Daryaee, 285–305.

Assignments

Participation in class discussion | 10%

Annotations to readings | 20%

Journal entries | 50%

Take-home, open-book final exam | 20%