

Iranian Society: Cultures, Religions & Politics

HHB219



This undergraduate unit is a must for students interested in the:

- **unique cultures**
- **fascinating religions**
- **intriguing politics of Iran**

**Unit commences Tuesday (4-6pm) 26th February, 2008
Room Z305 Gardens Point**

**Queensland University of Technology
Humanities Program**

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Iranian Society: Culture, Religions & Politics emphasises the development of analytical skills, critical thinking, scholarly writing, and oral presentation skills within a sociological focus on Iran and Iranian society. It provides students with analytical and critical skills that build upon previously acquired concepts and knowledge. It familiarises students with the extensive body of literature on Iran, religions, politics and culture, enabling the students to place many areas of Iranian scholarship into their philosophical, intellectual, social, historical and economic contexts.

The unit will introduce students to the social, cultural, political, and religious values and processes that have formed Iranian civilisation throughout its ancient, medieval and modern eras including the influences of current debates within a global context.

Summary of lecture content

- ✚ **Introduction to the unit** – geographic characteristics of Middle East & Iran
- ✚ Population and ethnic composition of Iran
- ✚ Iranian culture: Persian language, literature, traditions including Now-Rooz
- ✚ Iranian cinema and film industry
- ✚ Religion of pre-Islam in Iran: Mithraism, Zoroastrianism, Mazdakism & Monochism
- ✚ Sociology of Iranian geopolitics
- ✚ **Iran: tradition and modernity**
- ✚ Iran from the inception of Islam to the Constitution Revolution
- ✚ The Constitutional Revolution – Dr Mossadegh & nationalisation of oil – Reza Shah, & Mohammed Reza Shah
- ✚ Iranian social movements & Islamic Republic of Iran; Shiite Islam, politics, government & democratic movements
- ✚ Iranian economy: industries, oil, carpets; Iranian trade relations
- ✚ Persian Empire: Success & failure: Cyrus the Great
- ✚ Distinguished Iranian scholars: Ibn Sina, Razi, & Birouni
- ✚ Iranian youth culture
- ✚ Iranian-American relationships: The nuclear technology debate
- ✚ Future prospects: Iranian women & democratic movements