Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

**Winter Semester 2014/2015**

Seminar (BA)

**Ausgewählte Themen der Vergleichenden Politikwissenschaft**

**Politics and Society in Contemporary Iran**

Time: Mondays, 14.00-16.00

Venue: FMA/01.20

Start Date: 13 October 2014

Registration in

FlexNow!: 01.10.- 13.10.2014 (Deregistration until 22.10.2014)

Instructor: Vahid Zolfaghari, MA

**Zulassungsvoraussetzungen/Entry Requirements**

None

**Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises/Assessment**

Portfolio consisting of at least one seminar presentation (25%) and one written essay (75%)

ECTS credits: 6

**Programme/Course Description**

This course will provide students with an introduction to modern Iranian politics and its social bases from Reza Shah to the present. Students will gain insights into the Islamic Republic’s most important political institutions. At the same time they will examine the relationship between politics and society in contemporary Iran. Topics covered will include: the rise and demise of the Pahlavi dynasty and its interaction with society, the process of systemic change leading to the Islamic revolution of 1979, the establishment of the post-revolutionary constitution, the representative process and voting behavior, political culture and political socialization in post-revolutionary Iran, the role of the mass media, young people in Iranian society and politics, the role of intellectuals as well as the country’s political development. As far as possible, students will also have opportunities to discuss recent events such as the Iran-Iraq war, the nuclear weapons crisis, and domestic and foreign policy in the post-revolutionary Iranian state. The course will be held in English.

**Literatur zur Einführung/Introductory Reading**

Katouzian, Homa (2003). *Iranian History and Politics: The Dialectic of State and Society*. London: Routledge Curzon.

Gheissari, Ali (2009). *Contemporary Iran: Economy, Society and Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Adib Moghaddam, Arshin (2008). *Iran in World Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.