Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

**Winter Semester 2017/2018**

Seminar (BA)

**Seminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft**

**Politics and Society in Contemporary Iran**

Time: Mondays, 14.00-16.00

Venue: FMA/01.20

Start Date: 16 October 2017

Registration in

FlexNow!: 1-23 October 2017 (Deregistration until 30 October 2017)

Instructor: Vahid Zolfaghari, MA

**Zulassungsvoraussetzungen/Entry Requirements**

None

**ErwerbeinesLeistungsnachweises/Assessment**

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

ECTS credits: 6

**Programme/Course Description**

Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the major player at regional level in the sub-system of the Middle East. It is one of the rentier economies in the region. In many textbooks of comparative politics and political science literatures, the country serves as a role model- of a theocratic regime; rentier state; non-democratic political structure. In this module, which is based on series of seminars, we will make a succinct and laconic review on the pre-1979 revolution, but the main investment will be made on the post-1979 revolution. This classification is due to very spectacular and structural developments since 1979 onward. The emphasis will be on the voting behavior, the main institutions of government and political groups. In addition, participants will have opportunities to analyse and discuss key areas of public policy such as the characteristics of rentierism and state-based economy, reforms of constitution (especially the most recent draft about the political crime in the parliament after 34 year), Iran’s role in the political bargaining of the regional tensions, sanctions regime against Iran over nuclear program since 2005-2013 and plenary agreement between Iran and P5+1 about Iran’s nuclear issue. A detailed module description will be available to registered students at the beginning of the term.

**LiteraturzurEinführung/Introductory Reading**

Cohen, Ronen A. et al. (2015). Identities in Crisis in Iran: Politics, Culture, and Religion. Lexington Book.

Dershowitz, Alan (2015). The Case Against the Iran Deal. New York: Rosetta Press.

Ehteshami,Anoushirvan(2007). “Iran’s Politics and Regional Relations: Post-Detente”, perceptions, Spring, pp. 29-44.

Katzman, Kenneth (2015). Iran’s Foreign Policy, Congressional Research Service.

Rajaee,Farhang(1999). “A Thermidor of Islamic Yuppies?Conflict and Compromise in Iran’s Politics”, *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 53.No. 2. pp. 217-231.