



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

ASIA_V 366 - Topics in Asian Studies
Modern Iranian Women Writers & Artists

Mostafa Abedinifard

The 2022 women-led protests in Iran, sparked by Mahsa Amini's death, quickly evolved into the powerful "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, uniting millions of Iranians across generations, geographies, genders, classes, and ethnicities. Iranian women's pivotal role in this movement drew unprecedented global attention to their courage in leading what sociologist Asef Bayat calls "a movement to reclaim life." For over a century, despite political and social constraints, modern Iranian women have fought for women's and human rights, with renewed urgency since the 1979 Revolution. This course examines social dissent and criticism through select short stories, poems, excerpts of longer fiction/nonfiction, and short and feature films/documentaries by Iranian women in Iran and abroad, spanning from the late 19th century to the present. These works highlight their unique and often under-acknowledged contributions to Iranian literature and the arts while reflecting their critical engagement with Iranian society, culture, and politics.

Note: We will host guest lectures by some of the authors and artists whose works we analyze in this course. These sessions offer a rare opportunity to engage directly with the creators, providing insights into their experiences, creative processes, and visions.

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Milani, Farzaneh. *Veils and Words: The Emerging Voices of Modern Iranian Writers*. Syracuse UP, 1992.

Milani, Farzaneh. *Words, Not Swords: Iranian Women Writers and the Freedom of Movement*. Syracuse UP, 2011.

Naficy, Hamid. *A Social History of Iranian Cinema*, 4 vols. Duke University Press, 2010.

Assignments

Presence & Participation | 8%

Online Discussion and Responses | 24%

Quizzes | 12%



THE UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF
ASIAN STUDIES

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Recorded Presentation + Peer Review | 21%

Take-home Final | 35%

SAMPLE SYLLABUS