



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

ASIA_V 570 - Approaches to Asian Literature Classical Persian Historiography

Alexandra Hoffmann

This graduate seminar invites students to investigate the genre of Persian Historiography between ca. 1000 and 1500 CE as written in the Iranian Plateau and Central Asia. We will delve into questions like: How did Bal‘ami, Ferdowsi, Bayhaqi, or Rashid al-Din portray history in their works? What kind of past(s) did they imagine? How do they construct political legitimacy? What can we gather about the position of less socially prestigious groups – such as women or slaves, and what role does the “supernatural” play? We will divide our time equally between discussions of scholarship in English and the reading of passages in Persian. Students are therefore expected to be able to read Persian source texts with the help of a dictionary (students should have taken at least one year of Persian language courses).

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Charles Melville. *Persian Historiography: A History of Persian Literature*. 1st ed. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012.

Meisami, Julie Scott. *Persian Historiography to the End of the Twelfth Century*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1999.

Assignments

Participation in class discussions | 15%

Annotations on readings | 20%

Presentation on readings | 10%

Persian translations | 20%

Paper proposal and bibliography | 10%

Research paper | 25%