

History and Culture of Iran

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to develop an understanding of Iranian/Persian history and modern Iranian culture.

Course #	19SHI
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jim Harvey
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 10 weeks, starting February 27
Location:	Wesley United Methodist Church, Hadley

Description: Iran is regularly in the news, often branded as "evil". But Iran's Persian legacy is a long and rich one. Few of us have a grasp of its history or culture, despite its important position in the modern Middle East. This seminar is intended to address that lack. We will try to get beyond prejudice and rhetoric to understand this very ancient land and its people. Presentation topics will deal with such aspects as history, politics, food, visual arts, textiles, literature, education, religion, and the role of women.

Role of participants: Participants will read the resource book, research and present a topic for approximately 30 minutes, lead discussion on their own presentation, and join in the discussion of others.

Resources: Participants will be asked to read *Understanding Iran*, William Polk. Other readings may be supplied.

About the Moderator: Jim has been moderating seminars for 15 years. He was born in India, lived in Pakistan and has a lifelong interest in the history and cultures of the world's great civilizations.

Maximum number of participants: 17

Auditors accepted: yes, up to 2