



HIST 215: Introduction to the Middle East, Africa & Asia

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The major theme of the materials in use is oppression & resistance. We will explore the history of the oppressed and how successfully they resisted tyrants of their own native land and the invaders from other regions. This includes African dictators like Idi Amin, Numeiri; and those coming from outside like the Muslim invaders to India and Africa in the 7th century. Oppression and slavery was a major thing in the history of these regions, and religion was heavily abused to justify this crime. ISIS, Boko Haram, Shabab, Taliban, Military Jihadi groups are just a few examples to be studied and would go deeper to examine how it started. In addition we will highlight the plight of the Dalits in India, and slavery in Africa, in particular the eastern coast of Africa.

Course Description: *This course is an introduction to these three regions and should explore some specific landmark incidents over the past 2 millennia. Inspired by Howard Zinn's scholarly master text, [A People's History of the United States](#), this course should follow his approach in bringing the voice of peoples that usually not covered in mainstream history books that were published on these region.*

Virtual Office Hours: Mon 6-8pm; Fri 2-5

Required Texts:

- 1) Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now.
Author: Ayaan Hirsi Ali
- 2) Until We Are Free: My Fight for Human Rights in Iran (paperback).
Author: Shirin Ebadi

