

## Department of History

Bashiri  
Hist 3503, Rels 3709  
Ancient Iran  
Fall 2015

### Study Guide III

The following guide is provided to lead your study while preparing for the third test. **Several** questions will be formulated out of these items (i.e., the questions may not be exactly the same as the individual questions below) and given on **Wednesday, December 23, 2015, 1:30-3:30 p.m. (230 Blegen)** as test questions. You are expected to give **complete** answers to **all** questions. Exam 3 carries 12 points.

1. What role did the Parthians play in the revival of Persian culture after its fall to the Greeks?
2. Who is Ardashir I? What was Ardashir I's contribution to Persian culture?
3. What steps did Ardashir I take to distance Persia, even more than the Parthians had, from Hellenism?
4. Describe the accomplishments of Shapur I as a warrior king and as a consolidator of the Empire of the Sassanians.
5. Describe the circumstances that led Shapur I to choose Manicheism as the official religion of his realm.
6. Describe the exchange of ideas between the outer world and Persia during the reign of Khusrau I Anushirvan.
7. Describe Mazdak's reforms; explain in detail, how Kavad (Qubad) I and his son discredited the reformer and eliminated him.
8. Describe the reforms of Khosrau I (*Anushirvan*) in detail.
9. Khosrau II is recognized as the last of the great kings of Iran. What kind of a person and what kind of a king was he?
10. Write a biography for the bard Borbad.
11. Describe Firdowsi's contribution to Persian culture.
12. Describe the genesis of the *Ahuric* order, its development in Sassanid times, and its contribution to Iranian culture.
13. Describe the significance of the following ancient Iranian concepts:
  - Farr*
  - Ahuric* order
  - fire
  - free will.
14. Who are the Hephthalites? Describe their relationship with the Sassanids.
15. Why did Darius I pay a special attention to *ma'at*?
16. Compare the Valley of the Kings in Egypt with Naqsh-e Rostam in Iran.
17. Who is Buzurgmehr?