



McGill

Institute of
Islamic Studies

Institut
d'études islamiques

Course and Contact Information

Course: Introductory Persian, ISLA 541 D1, 3 Credits

Semester: Fall 2018

Meeting time: MWF 9:35-10:25

Location: MOR 328

Instructor

Name: Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi

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Office Hour: M 12:30-1:30

TA

Name: Amir Pournamdar

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

In ISLA 541 D1, you will be introduced to the Persian language with an intensive focus on the alphabet, which will be demonstrated with examples in comparison with the English alphabet and the corresponding phonemes. Once you have acquired the alphabet and the corresponding sounds, you will learn how to combine them in writing and in pronunciation. The first lesson will end with a simple dialogue on greeting, introducing yourself and leave-taking expressions.

In the remaining weeks, you will learn the vocabulary and grammatical structures needed to communicate in simple dialogues, to read simple texts, and to write simple paragraphs. You will also learn the colloquial version of Persian through simple dialogues at the end of each lesson.

Every week, you will read a short text on a variety of topics. In order to internalize the new vocabulary and structure, you will do different exercises on the text. Every week, you will also be familiarized with a topic related to the Iranian culture. You will be given different words and expressions used in that topic, and you will see them used in the example sentences as well as the exercises. In addition, various cultural themes will be discussed in the photo captions at the beginning of each lesson. The dialogues, sample examples, reading texts, and photo captions are all designed such that you will be familiar with the Persian culture and literature. You are strongly encouraged to listen to the audio file of the book, which is available for free in the Routledge website. Just search for the title of the book and you will see a link to the audio file in the Routledge website.

For your term project, you will read an abridged book in Persian and give a presentation and paper on the story at the end of the term. Every two students will be assigned one book to work as a team.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the yearlong introductory course (ISLA 541 D1 & ISLA 541 D2), you will have covered all the basic principles of Persian grammar and a good scope of vocabulary to enable you to read and write simple texts in Persian with ease. You will also be able to understand and speak about everyday topics and cultural themes with relative ease.

Required Textbooks

Shabani-Jadidi, P. & Brookshaw, D. P. (2010). *The Routledge Introductory Persian Course: Farsi Shirin Ast 1*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

Recommended supplementary material

Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2012). *Basic Persian: a Grammar and Workbook*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

Dehghani, Y. (2006). *Persian-English English-Persian Learner's Dictionary*. Ibex Publishers, Bethesda, MD.

Description of Instructional Methods

Students will strengthen their Persian language proficiency by participating in class discussions, reading dialogues and texts, writing short texts, and delivering presentations during the course of the semester. Students will be given an abridged book (written specifically for second language learners of Persian) on a topic related to Persian literature and culture to read for their final presentation and paper for this semester. Every two students will be given one book to work in pair. Regular formative assessments and a midterm exam, during the semester, and a final exam, at the end of the semester, will be administered.

Average minimum amount of out-of-class or independent learning expected per week

In this 14-week semester, students are expected to spend a minimum of 100 minutes of out-of-class work for every 50 minutes of direct instruction. This 3 credit course will include 3 hours of direct instruction per week in addition to 2 hours of conversation sessions per week led by the TA of the course.

Course Schedule Fall 2018

**Note that there might be some changes to the following course schedule if required.*

Weeks	Textbook	Additional
Week 1 Sep 5-7	Reading/Writing	PowerPoint on alphabet
Lesson 1: The Persian	Transliteration and the Persian	
Alphabet	Alphabet	
	Pronunciation	
	Persian Phonology	

<p>Week 2 Sep 10-12-14</p> <p>Lesson 1: The Persian Alphabet</p> <p>Lesson 2: Introduce yourself. Where are you from?</p>	<p>Writing</p> <p>Spelling hints</p> <p>Writing the Alphabet</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Colloquial dialogue: Getting to know someone</p> <p>Language use and usage (lesson 2)</p> <p>Vocabulary building</p>	<p>Basic Persian</p> <p>Chapter 1</p>
<p>Week 3 Sep 17-19-21</p> <p>Lesson 2: Introduce yourself. Where are you from?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Grammar: to be/to have, <i>ezafe</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: Accent</p> <p>Colloquial dialogue: Introducing yourself</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Introducing yourself</p> <p>What do you do?</p> <p>Where are you from?</p>	<p>Basic Persian</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>
<p>Week 4 Sep 24-26-28</p> <p>Lesson 3: Is Iran or Canada larger?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building</p> <p>Grammar: negation and adjectives, comparative and superlative</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: The new professor</p> <p>Colloquial dialogue: Asking for directions</p> <p>Text: Canada and Iran</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Asking for address</p> <p>Where are you from?</p> <p>Compare ... and</p>	<p>Basic Persian</p> <p>Chapter 4</p>
<p>Week 5 Oct 1-3-5</p> <p>Lesson 4: How many</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building</p> <p>Grammar: subjective, objective and</p>	<p>QUIZ 1 (lessons 1-2)</p> <p>Basic Persian</p>

provinces does Iran have?	possessive pronouns; word order in Persian Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Gilan province	Chapter 3
Week 6 Oct 8 Holiday Oct 10-12 Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have?	Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Gilan Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: At the bank Speaking Provinces of Iran Bank	Basic Persian Chapter 10
Week 7 Oct 15-17-19 Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: sentences; numbers; time expressions Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Noruz	QUIZ 2 (lessons 3-4) Basic Persian Chapter 8
Week 8 Oct 22-24-26 Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz?	Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: New Year Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: At the cinema Speaking How do you celebrate the new year? Going to the cinema	Basic Persian Chapter 6
Week 9 Oct 29-31 Nov 2 Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: verbs: past, present, future Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Friday	Midterm exam (lessons 1-4) Basic Persian Chapters 5
Week 10 Nov 5-7-9	Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing	Basic Persian Chapter 7 & 11

Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran?	Text: The days of the week Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: At the grocer's Speaking Days of the week What is your typical day? Grocery shopping	
Week 11 Nov 12-14-16 Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: subjunctive, imperative Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Football	Basic Persian Chapter 9
Week 12 Nov 19-21-23 Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport?	Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Sports Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: Sightseeing Speaking What sport do you do? Sightseeing in Iran	QUIZ 3 (lessons 5-7) Basic Persian Chapter 14
Week 13 Nov 26-28-30 Lesson 8: Do you haggle?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: tenses, verb review Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Haggling Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: The Mountain Colloquial dialogue: In the summer Speaking Do you haggle? What are your hobbies? What do you do in the summer?	Basic Persian Chapter 15

Week 14 Dec 3-4 (Tuesday, Dec 4 is a Monday schedule.)	Presentations and papers due
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CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Course organization

Students can expect to be informally assessed on a weekly basis with respect to their progress with grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Formal composition assessments will be administered regularly. Compositions will be at least one paragraph in length. Students will deliver formal and informal oral presentations during this class. Language can only be learned and absorbed if it is practiced on a regular basis, inside and outside the classroom. Students are encouraged to take every opportunity to practice their Persian language skills throughout their daily routine.

Attendance

This language course requires students to attend class regularly and punctually. Successful completion of this course requires students to actively participate in class and finish all assignments in a timely manner.

GRADING

A 85-100	A- 80-84	B+ 75-79
B 70-74	B- 65-69	C+ 60-64
C 55-59	D 50-54	F 0-49

FINAL GRADE

Assignment Contribution Towards Grade	
Assignment	Percentage/Points towards Final Grade
Participation, attendance, homework, compositions, presentations, papers, quizzes, and exams	10% Participation/attendance 10% Homework 10% Quizzes (formative assessments) 20% Midterm exam 10% Oral exam with the TA 10% Final presentation 10% Final paper 20% Final exam
Total:	100%

*** Important note: Being absent for the final exam leads to failing the course.**

DETAILS OF GRADING

10% Attendance and active participation

You will get the full mark if you do not miss more than 1 class and have active participation in every class.

10% Timely submission of all assignments

You will be given full mark if you submit all the assignments required by the instructor, regardless of the number of mistakes you make. Making mistakes is a very important component of language learning and the best way for the instructor to know your problems and to help you overcome them. Therefore, avoid using Google translate or other methods of this kind.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to consult with one of your classmates and to ask what the assignment is. You must hand it your assignment the following session after your absence.

10% Quizzes

You will write 3 quizzes during this semester, one after every two lessons. The dates are marked in the syllabus. Your lowest quiz grade will not be counted.

10% Oral exam with the TA

You need to participate in conversation sessions 2 hours per week led by the TA. In week 14, there will be individual oral exams of the topics covered in conversation sessions.

20% Midterm exam

The midterm exam of the fall semester is from lessons 1-4 inclusively. All the sections of the exam include seen texts and sentences, but no dictionary is allowed. The exam has 5 sections: 1-2) one series of English-Persian and one series of Persian-English translation of sentences containing a particular tense or grammatical structure (The sentences are copied from the example sentences throughout each lesson), 3-4) one English-Persian and one Persian-English translation of texts (either the photo captions, or the reading, or the dialogues in each lesson), 5) essay writing (the topics are selected from the titles of the readings or dialogues in the lesson). You will be given options for the sections 3-5, but not for 1-2. Please review your exam paper several times before handing it over.

10% Final presentation

You and your teammate will be given a small simplified book specifically written for language learners on a variety of literary and cultural themes about Iran later in the semester. You will each present half of the book at the end of the semester. No notes are allowed. Full mark will be given to natural and fluid presentations regardless of the number of difficult words you use. Therefore, try to understand your book and speak in your own words with whatever vocabulary you have acquired at that level. You need to make a poster for your presentation. No PowerPoint slides are accepted.

10% Final paper

On the day of your presentation, you must hand in your paper that is based on the complete short book and your evaluation and criticism of it. Therefore, you must work with your teammate closely, but you should each give a different paper. Every student is evaluated individually. The papers must be handwritten and 2 pages long. You will get the full mark if your paper does not contain too many mistakes (some mistakes are fine, so do not have your paper proofread by a native speaker. If your Persian is as perfect as a native speaker, what is the point of taking the course?), and it contains the two sections of: a) summary, and b) your personal thoughts and experience reading it.

20% Final exam

The final exam of the fall semester is from lessons 5-8 inclusively. All the sections of the exam include seen texts and sentences, but no dictionary is allowed. The exam has 5 sections: 1-2) one series of English-Persian and one series of Persian-English translation of sentences containing a particular tense or grammatical structure (The sentences are copied from the example sentences throughout each lesson), 3-4) one English-Persian and one Persian-English translation of texts (either the photo captions, or the reading, or the dialogues in each lesson), 5) essay writing (the topics are selected from the titles of the readings or dialogues in the lesson). You will be given options for the sections 3-5, but not for 1-2. Please review your exam paper several times before handing it over.

McGill Policy Statements

1) Academic Integrity:

“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures”

(see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

« L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).»

2) Language of Submission:

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.”

« Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).»

LEARNING RESOURCES

Online Dictionaries:

Farsi 123: online Persian-English Dictionary.

<http://farsi123.com/>

Aryanpour Dictionary: a simple online dictionary that provides Persian to English and English to Persian translation. This source is not always accurate.

<http://www.aryanpour.com>

Farsi Dictionary: almost identical to Aryanpour Dictionary.

<http://www.farsidic.com>

Francis Joseph Steingass Persian-English Dictionary: in use since the 1870's, it is the most complete and concise Persian dictionary. The collection of definitions is exceptional and has yet to be surpassed. Persian language and literature scholars retain this dictionary as a principal source for information.

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/steingass>

(Note: A German native, Steingass learned Persian as a second language.)

Vajehyab Online Persian-Persian Dictionary: a great resource for pronunciation, definitions and authentic examples from classical and modern Persian literature.

<https://www.vajehyab.com>

Other Resources:

University of Texas at Austin Persian: a unique and extensive resource for Persian language learning. Search through it in your spare time. Of particular interest are the Persian Verb Conjugation and Joining and Disjoining Persian Letters, both found in "Archived News" on the home page.

http://sites.la.utexas.edu/persian_online_resources/

Persian verb conjugator: an online conjugator for Persian verbs. It can conjugate Persian verbs in all tenses, aspects and moods. Type the infinitive of the verb you want and then, click on Conjugate button or hit Enter on your keyboard.

<http://www.jahanshiri.ir/>

Persian online writing resource: a good resource for useful Persian-related links.

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm>

Persian online video resource: a good online resource for the beginning level.

www.persianlanguageonline.com

Useful Links:

Persian News Links: <http://www.gooya.com/>

BBC Persian News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/>

VOA Persian News: <http://ir.voanews.com/>

Persian Culture: <http://www.ichto.ir/>

Persian Classical Poetry: <https://ganjoor.net>

McGill Library Resources: <http://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/islamiclanguages/persian>

<http://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/iranianstudies/home>