



Institute of
Islamic Studies

Institut
d'études islamiques

Course and Contact Information

Course: Lower Intermediate Persian, ISLA 542 D1, 3 Credits

Semester: Fall 2018

Meeting time: MWF 10:35-11:25

Location: MOR 328

Instructor

Name: Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi

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Office Hour: M 12:30-1:30

TA

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

In ISLA 542 D1, you will be exposed to different authentic texts. 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. Grammatical points covered last year will be repeated in Persian in this level. Try to read them and reinforce the structures you learned in the first year.

In addition, every week, you will be familiarized with a different topic that is discussed in the media. You will be given the specific words and expressions used in that topic, and you will use them in language usage exercises following the vocabulary. Persian language and Persian literature are closely tied; therefore, you will be introduced to different modern and classical prose and poetry at this level. In addition, you will learn morphological, semantic and syntactic complexities of the Persian language. You will be involved in different tasks and exercises to acquire these complexities. Various cultural themes will be discussed in the photo captions at the end of each unit. You are encouraged to listen to the audio file of the book, which is available for free in the Routledge website and includes all the texts in each lesson.

For your term project, you will be given a Persian book to read and to do an extensive library and online research about the text, its author, and other works of the author. At the end of the semester, you will give a presentation and write a paper on your assigned book.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this yearlong intermediate course (ISLA 542 D1 & ISLA 542 D2), you will have read a wide variety of classical and modern Persian texts both in prose and poetry. Therefore, you will be able to read, write, understand and speak about a variety of literary, historical, cultural and journalistic topics with relative ease.

Required Textbooks

Brookshaw, D.P. & Shabani-Jadidi, P. (2012). The Routledge Intermediate Persian Course: Farsi Shirin Ast II. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

Recommended supplementary material

Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2013). Intermediate Persian: a Grammar and Workbook. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

Brookshaw, D. P. (2011). Media Persian. Edinburgh University Press. UK.

Description of Instructional Methods

Students will strengthen their Persian language proficiency by participating in class discussions, reading classical and modern Persian prose and poetry, writing texts on different genres, and delivering presentations during the course of the semester. Each student will be assigned a Persian book to read for their final presentation and paper. 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 Lesson 1: Which sport are you interested in?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: simple sentences Let's know more: Compound verbs Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Football	Initial in-class essay

<p>Week 2 Sep 10-12-14</p> <p>Lesson 1: Which sport are you interested in?</p>	<p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: general media vocabulary</p> <p>Colloquial/literary Persian Jalal Al-e Ahmad, <i>Preparing the nation</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Script</p> <p>Speaking Explain a sport in detail. Jalal Al-e Ahmad and his works What are the current news headlines? How was pre-Islamic Persian written? Is Arabic alphabet suitable to write in Persian? How is divorce in your civil law? What is the political system like in your country?</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian Chapter 8</p>
<p>Week 3 Sep 17-19-21</p> <p>Lesson 2: Which issues normally cause divorce?</p>	<p>Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: simple sentences</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Divorce in Iran's tribal communities</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Politic and government</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian Chapter 12</p>
<p>Week 4 Sep 24-26-28</p> <p>Lesson 2: Which issues normally cause divorce?</p>	<p>Colloquial/literary Persian Jalal Al-e Ahmad, <i>Samanu cooking</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing Let's know more: Forugh Farrokhzad</p> <p>Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Wind tower</p> <p>Speaking Forugh Farrokhzad and her works What do you know about wind towers?</p>	<p>Quiz 1 (lessons 1-2)</p>

	<p>What are other particularities of Persian architecture?</p> <p>What do you know about the archeological sites in Iran?</p>	
<p>Week 5 Oct 1-3-5</p> <p>Lesson 3: What do you know about Iran's ancient sites?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: subject and predicate/ simple and compound sentences</p> <p>Let's know more: Morphology</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Tepe Marlik</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing</p> <p>Media Persian: Elections</p> <p>Colloquial/literary Persian</p> <p>Goli Taraghi, <i>Hibernation</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Mud brick</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Goli Taraghi and her works</p> <p>How are buildings made in Iran?</p> <p>How is election in your country?</p>	
<p>Week 6 Oct 8 Holiday Oct 10-12</p> <p>Lesson 4: What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the capital?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: exclamatory sentences</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Tehran</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing</p> <p>Media Persian: Security and conflict</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian</p> <p>Chapter 11</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct 15-17-19</p> <p>Lesson 4: What are the advantages and</p>	<p>Colloquial/literary Persian</p> <p>Moniru Ravanipur, <i>The long night</i></p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p>	<p>Quiz 2 (lessons 3-4)</p>

<p>disadvantages of living in the capital?</p>	<p>Let's know more: Fereydun Moshiri</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Motorway</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Fereydun Moshiri and his works</p> <p>Moniru Ravanipur and her works</p> <p>How is the traffic different in Iran and in your country?</p> <p>What can be done to decrease air pollution?</p> <p>What is Tehran famous for?</p> <p>How did the "imposed war" affect Iran?</p>	
<p>Week 8 Oct 22-24-26</p> <p>Lesson 5: Which do you prefer: poetry or prose?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: <i>chon/cho</i></p> <p>Let's know more: Morpheme types</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Nezami Ganjavi</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing</p> <p>Media Persian: Law and order</p> <p>Colloquial/literary Persian</p> <p>Zoya Pirzad, <i>The acrid taste of persimmons</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Pillar</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Who are the most celebrated poets of Iran?</p> <p>Nezami Ganjavi and his works</p> <p>Zoya Pirzad and her works</p> <p>How is law and order established in Iran?</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian</p> <p>Chapter 13</p>
<p>Week 9 Oct 29-31 Nov 2</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p>	<p>Midterm (1-4)</p>

<p>Lesson 6: What are the pros and cons of travelling by train?</p>	<p>Grammar: Arabic broken plurals Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Railways Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Human rights</p>	
<p>Week 10 Nov 5-7-9</p> <p>Lesson 6: What are the pros and cons of travelling by train?</p>	<p>Colloquial/literary Persian Ahmad Mahmud, <i>Scorched Earth</i> Reading/Writing Let's know more: Sadeq Hedayat Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Pigeon tower Speaking Ahmad Mahmud and his works Sadeq Hedayat and his works Have you ever seen a Pigeon tower? What is the best way to travel? Why is the pillar so important in architecture in Iran? What are some human rights issues in Iran?</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian Chapter 3</p>
<p>Week 11 Nov 12-14-16</p> <p>Lesson 7: What do you do to protect the environment?</p>	<p>Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: compound nouns Let's know more: affixes Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Iran's natural geography Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Economics How is the economics status of Iran?</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian Chapter 10</p>
<p>Week 12 Nov 19-21-23</p>	<p>Colloquial/literary Persian Simin Daneshvar, <i>The life of the alley</i></p>	<p>Quiz 3 (lessons 5-7)</p>

Lesson 7: What do you do to protect the environment?	<p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Fire temple</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>What do you know about Iran's geography?</p> <p>Simin Daneshvar and her works</p>	
<p>Week 13 Nov 26-28-30</p> <p>Lesson 8: What do commercial centers look like in your country?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: compound adjectives</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Bazaar</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing</p> <p>Media Persian: Trade and industry</p> <p>Colloquial/literary Persian</p> <p>Sadeq Hedayat, <i>The darkroom</i></p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Let's know more: The folklore of the people of Iran</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Traditional marketplace</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Sadeq Hedayat and his works</p> <p>What do you know about Persian folklore?</p> <p>Describe a traditional market place.</p> <p>How is the traditional market place different from the modern one?</p> <p>Why is fire important in Zoroastrianism?</p> <p>What are some imports and exports of Iran?</p>	
Week 14	Presentations and papers due	

Dec 3-4 (Tuesday, Dec 4 is a Monday schedule.)	
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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 about one page 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.

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 in the textbook. There are no surprises! The exam has 6 sections: 1-2) one English-Persian and one Persian-English translation of “reading texts” at the beginning of each lesson or the poem or text in the “Let’s know more” or the text in some of the “Let’s get to know Iran better”, 3) one Persian-English translation of the literature excerpt in each lesson, 4-5) one series of English-Persian and one series of Persian-English translation of media sentences contained in each lesson, 6) essay writing (the topics are selected from the titles of the texts in the lesson, you are going to choose one out of the two topics given to write your essay).

Please review your exam paper several times before handing it over.

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.

10% Final presentation

You will be given a Persian book to read and to do an extensive library and online research about the text, its author, and other works of the author. 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 paper and speak in your own words with whatever vocabulary you have acquired at that level.

10% Final paper

On the day of your presentation, you must hand in your paper that is based on the book you read and your evaluation and criticism of it. The papers must be handwritten and 4-5 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 three sections of: a) summary of the story, b) your critique of the text, and c) 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 in the textbook. There are no surprises! The exam has 6 sections: 1-2) one

English-Persian and one Persian-English translation of “reading texts” at the beginning of each lesson or the poem or text in the “Let’s know more” or the text in some of the “Let’s get to know Iran better”, 3) one Persian-English translation of the literature excerpt in each lesson, 4-5) one series of English-Persian and one series of Persian-English translation of media sentences contained in each lesson, 6) essay writing (the topics are selected from the titles of the texts in the lesson, you are going to choose one out of the two topics given to write your essay). 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>

Persian audiobooks: <http://ketabkhaneyegooya.blogspot.ca>

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

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