



Institute of  
Islamic Studies

Institut  
d'études islamiques

### **Course and Contact Information**

Course: Upper Intermediate Persian, ISLA 543, 3 Credits

Semester: Fall 2018

Meeting time: MWF 11:35-12:25

Location: MOR 328

### **Instructor**

Name: Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi

Email: Pouneh.shabani-jadidi@mcgill.ca

Office Hour: M 12:30-1:30

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Course Description**

ISLA 543 is designed to provide you with an opportunity to read authentic texts in Persian. Through various exercises, you will be familiar with the news terminology as well as other complex expressions and proverbs used throughout the news articles and literature excerpts distributed in class. During this year, you will read a variety of news excerpts from the newspapers printed inside Iran (*Ettelā'āt*, *Keyhān*, *Sharq*, *E'temād*, *Irān*, and *Mardomsālāri*) as well as a book written by a renowned writer of modern fiction.

The structure of the semester is that during every week, Mondays are allocated to reading and speaking about the headlines in the assigned newspaper pages, and Wednesdays are allocated to doing the media exercises in the textbook. You are expected to read the assigned newspaper page and listen to the relevant audio recording before the class. Class time is devoted to critical discussions, problem solving, and translation. On Fridays, we will do what is left from the exercises, and we will also do various hands-on translations of different literary genres, both in prose and poetry. All the texts translated in class will be part of the midterm and final exam, so keep them safe.

For the term project, you are to read a Persian novel throughout the semester. You must get the approval of the instructor for your selected book during the first two weeks of class. You must give a 2-3 page report of it on the day of the midterm exam, and you must present it and give a final paper of 7-8 pages (excluding the reference page) at the end of the semester.

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, you will be able to read and translate various Persian media texts with ease. Your writing will also have improved according to the intensity of the readings you have done. You will be able to write and speak about the news using news jargons in addition to Persian language idiomatic expressions as well as Arabic broken plurals, which is the common form of plural used in formal Persian texts, especially journalistic texts.

## Required Textbook

Shabani-Jadidi, P. (2015). *What the Persian Media Says*. A Course book. Routledge. Taylor and Francis Group. London & New York.

## Description of Instructional Methods

Students will strengthen their Persian language proficiency by participating in class discussions, reading newspaper texts on a variety of topics, including but not limited to social, political, economic, cultural, literary, writing texts with the newly acquired vocabulary, and delivering presentations during the course of the semester. For the term project, each student will read a Persian novel 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.

## Course Schedule Fall 2018

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

Weeks	Mondays	Wednesdays
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Sep 5-7</b>  Lesson 1 <i>Ettelā'āt</i> : National and international news (front page)	<b>Initial in-class essay</b>  <b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> International news	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Sep 10-12-14</b>	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building

Lesson 2 <i>Keyhān</i> : National and international news	<b>Speaking</b> International news	Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Sep 17-19-21</b>  Lesson 3 <i>Sharq</i> : National and international news (front page)	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> International news	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Sep 24-26-28</b>  Lesson 4 <i>Ettelā'āt</i> : National news	<b>Quiz 1 (lessons 1-3)</b>  <b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> National news	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Oct 1-3-5</b>  Lesson 5 <i>Keyhān</i> : National news	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> National news	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Oct 8 Holiday</b> <b>Oct 10-12</b>  Lesson 6 <i>Sharq</i> : Politics	<b>Quiz 2 (lessons 4-6)</b>  <b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> Politics	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 7</b> <b>Oct 15-17-19</b>  Lesson 7 <i>Ettelā'āt</i> : Opinion	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> Opinion	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b>

		Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Oct 22-24-26</b>  Lesson 8 <i>Keyhān</i> : Entertainment	<b><u>Midterm (lessons 1-7)</u></b> <b>Term project reports due (2-3 pages)</b>  <b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Speaking</b> Entertainment	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 9</b> <b>Oct 29-31</b> <b>Nov 2</b>  Lesson 9 <i>Sharq</i> : Arts	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> Arts	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 10</b> <b>Nov 5-7-9</b>  Lesson 10 <i>Ettelā'āt</i> : Economics	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> Economics	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 11</b> <b>Nov 12-14-16</b>  Lesson 11 <i>Keyhān</i> : Economics	<b><u>Quiz 3 (lessons 8-10)</u></b>  <b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> Economics	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Nov 19-21-23</b>  Lesson 12 <i>Sharq</i> : Economics	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Speaking</b> Economics	<b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing

<b>Week 13</b> <b>Nov 26-28-30</b>  Lesson 13 <i>Ettelā'āt:</i>  Provincial news	<b><u>Quiz 4 (lessons 11-12)</u></b>  <b>Language use and usage</b> Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice  <b>Speaking</b> Provincial news	<b>Reading comprehension</b> Scanning and skimming skills  <b>Writing</b> Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing
<b>Week 14</b> <b>Dec 3-4</b> <b>(Tuesday, Dec 4 is a Monday schedule.)</b>	<b>Presentations and papers due</b>	

## 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 1-2 pages 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, presentation, papers, quizzes, and exams	10% Participation/attendance 10% Homework 15% Quizzes (formative assessments) 20% Midterm exam 10% Final presentation 10% Final paper 25% Final exam
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\* 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 in your assignment the following session after your absence.

### 15% Quizzes

You will write 4 quizzes during this semester, one after every three lessons. The dates are marked in the syllabus.

### 20% Midterm exam

The final examination is from all the material we covered in class (From the Media book, lessons 1-6). All the sections of the exam include sentences in the textbook and the newspaper pages we covered in class. The exam has 4 sections: 1-2) English-Persian and Persian-English translation sentences from the media textbook, 3) three prose or poetry texts translated in class on Fridays, of which you choose two, and 4) essay writing on a political, social, cultural issue covered in class (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% Final presentation

You will read a Persian novel assigned by the instructor to you. You will present the book at the end of the semester. Your presentation must be based on the book you read and more peripheral information, as well as your evaluation and criticism of it based on the theories of your respective field of study. 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 your assigned book, in which you have used the theories of your field of study in your discussions and analysis. The papers must be handwritten and 7-8 pages long (excluding the reference page).

### 25% Final exam

The final examination is from all the material we covered in class (From the Media book, lessons 7-13). All the sections of the exam include sentences in the textbook and the newspaper pages we covered in class. The exam has 4 sections: 1-2) English-Persian and Persian-English translation sentences from the media textbook, 3) three prose or poetry texts translated in class on Fridays, of which you choose two, and 4) essay writing on a political, social, cultural issue covered in class (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/](http://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/](http://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/](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](http://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>