Course and Contact Information
Course: Introductory Persian, ISLA 541 D2, 3 Credits
Semester: Winter 2020
Meeting time: MW 11:30-1:00
Location: MOR 328

Instructor
Name: Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Email: Pouneh.shabani-jadidi@mcgill.ca
Office Hour: W 10:30-11:30

TA
Name: Amir Pournamdar
Email: amir.pournamdarsarcheshmeh@mail.mcgill.ca

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description
In ISLA 541 D2, you will continue to learn the vocabulary and grammatical structures needed to communicate in simple dialogues, to read simple texts, and to write simple paragraphs. You will also continue to learn the colloquial version of Persian through simple dialogues at the end of each lesson.
Every week, like last semester, 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 a short story in Persian and give a presentation and paper on the story and its peripheral information at the end of the term.

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


Recommended supplementary material


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. Every student will be given a short story to read for her/his final presentation and paper for this semester. 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 5 hours of conversation sessions per week led by the TA of the course, one hour of which is compulsory and attending 3 hours or more will get you 5 extra points.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Textbook</th>
<th>Exams/events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Language use and usage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations and papers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6-8</td>
<td>Vocabulary building</td>
<td>from last semester</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grammar: nouns, orthographic rules, numerials, determiners, demonstratives,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>definite and indefinite markers</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading/ Writing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Formal dialogue: University credits</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Speaking</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is the ideal religion? Why?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 13-15</td>
<td>Text: Religion</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading/ Writing</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colloquial dialogue: At the restaurant</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Speaking</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>What courses are you taking?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Going to a restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Language use and usage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations and papers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20-22</td>
<td>Vocabulary building</td>
<td>from last semester</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grammar: prepositions, reflexive and emphatic pronouns</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text: A traditional way of thinking</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading/ Writing</strong></td>
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<td>Formal dialogue: Moving to a new house</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colloquial dialogue: In the classroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Speaking</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Who does the house chores?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Where is …?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What are you studying?</td>
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| Week 4 | Jan 27-29 | Language use and usage  
Vocabulary building  
Grammar: relative clauses  
**Reading**  
comprehension/Translation/Writing  
Text: Tourist sights  
**Reading/Writing**  
Formal dialogue: Shopping  
Colloquial dialogue: At the post office  
**Speaking**  
Touristic centres  
Buying clothes  
Sending a letter at the post office | **Presentations and papers from last semester** |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesson 11: Where is Persepolis?</strong></td>
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| **Week 5** | Feb 3-5 | Language use and usage  
Vocabulary building  
Grammar: adverbial clauses, conditional sentences, possible and impossible conditionals, impersonal constructions  
**Reading/Writing**  
Formal dialogue: Favourite singer  
**Speaking**  
What kind of music do you like?  
Who is your favourite singer? | Feb 3 Midterm (lessons 9-11) |
| **Lesson 12: Is pop music better or traditional music?** | | |
| **Week 6** | Feb 10-12 | **Reading**  
comprehension/Translation/Writing  
Text: Education  
**Reading/Writing**  
Colloquial dialogue: At the doctor’s surgery  
**Speaking**  
What is the education system like?  
Visiting the doctor | |
| **Lesson 12: Is pop music better or traditional music?** | | |
| **Week 7** | Feb 17-19 | Language use and usage  
Vocabulary building  
Grammar: passive constructions  
**Reading/Writing** | |
| Lesson 13: What kind of a university is your university? | Formal dialogue: Police station  
**Speaking**  
What kind of university is your university?  
Filing a report at the police station  
Buying books at the bookstore |
|---|---|
| **Week 8**  
Feb 24-26 | Reading  
**comprehension/Translation/Writing**  
Text: Different kinds of university  
**Reading/Writing**  
Colloquial dialogue: At the bookstore  
**Speaking**  
Buying books at the bookstore  
Visiting a library |
| **Lesson 13: What kind of a university is your university?**  
**Week 8**  
Feb 24-26 | **STUDY BREAK**  
**STUDY BREAK** |
| **Week 10**  
March 9-11 | **Language use and usage**  
Vocabulary building  
Grammar: compounding, derivatives, conjunctions  
**Reading/Writing**  
Formal dialogue: The birthday present  
**Speaking**  
How is a wedding ceremony in your country?  
When is your birthday?  
What is the best birthday gift you have received? |
| **Lesson 14: Are you single or married?**  
**Week 10**  
March 9-11 | **Reading**  
**comprehension/Translation/Writing**  
Text: Traditional marriage practices  
**Reading/Writing**  
Colloquial dialogue: Travelling  
**Speaking**  
What is the best way to travel?  
Where is your next travel destination? |
| **Week 11**  
March 16-18 | **Norouz event:**  
Wednesday March 18, 2020, 12:00-4:00 PM  
**Actual Norouz:**  
Thursday March 19, 2020, 23:49:37 PM |
### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>March 23-25</th>
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</table>
| Lesson 15: Why do you stand on ceremony? | Language use and usage  
Vocabulary building  
Grammar: causative verbs, review of tenses  
**Reading/Writing**  
Formal dialogue: Beeping your car horn  
**Speaking**  
What kind of books do you read?  
Who is your favourite author? |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th>March 30-April 1</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Lesson 15: Why do you stand on ceremony? | **Reading**  
Comprehension/Translation/Writing  
Text: Book fair  
**Reading/Writing**  
Colloquial dialogue: Standing on ceremony  
**Speaking**  
What is Ta’arof?  
What kind of international exhibitions have you visited? |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 14</th>
<th>April 6-8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oral presentations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Papers due</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>65-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>60-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>55-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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</table>

**FINAL GRADE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Contribution Towards Grade</th>
<th>Percentage/Points towards Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation, attendance, homework, compositions, presentations, papers, and exams</td>
<td>10% Participation/attendance/assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% Midterm exam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20% Speaking session attendance and oral exam with the TA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10% Final presentation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10% Final paper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30% Final exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong> 100%</td>
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* Important note: Being absent for the final exam leads to failing the course.

**DETAILS OF GRADING**

**Evaluation:**

Your course grade will be calculated as follows. Each semester is worth 50% of your final grade since it is a year-long course.

10% Attendance, active participation, and timely submission of all assignments

You will get the full mark if you do not miss more than 3 classes, have active participation in every class, and 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.

10% Final oral presentations
You will each be given a short story by Zoya Pirzad, modern novelist and short story writer, to read for the term project. You will present your story 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 story 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 short story and your evaluation and criticism of it. The paper must be handwritten and 3-4 pages long. Your paper must contain the two sections of: a) summary, evaluation, and criticism, and b) your personal thoughts and experience reading it. 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?

20% Midterm examination
The midterm examination of the fall semester is from lessons 9-11 inclusively.

30% Final examination
The final examination of the fall semester is from lessons 9-15 inclusively.

20% Speaking sessions attendance and active participation
There will be 5 one-hour speaking sessions during the week organized and led by the TA of the course. If you regularly attend at least one of them, you will get your full mark. However, you are strongly recommended to attend as many as you can, as what you learn in the class will be reinforced in the speaking sessions in practice. You will be given 5 extra points if you attend 3 sessions or more per week.

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 triche, 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/](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](http://www.aryanpour.com)

- **Farsi Dictionary:** almost identical to Aryanpour Dictionary.  
  [http://www.farsidic.com](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](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](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/](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:**

- BBC Persian News: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/)
- Persian Culture: [http://www.ichto.ir/](http://www.ichto.ir/)
- Persian Classical Poetry: [https://ganjoor.net](https://ganjoor.net)