

Introductory Persian
ISLA 541 (D1)
Fall 2015
M-W-F
Office hours: Mondays 12-1

McGill University
Institute of Islamic Studies, Room 308

Dr. Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Pouneh.shabani-jadidi@mcgill.ca

DESCRIPTION

Introductory level

In this course, you will be introduced to the language with an intensive focus on the alphabet, which will be demonstrated with examples and 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 unit. 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 encouraged to listen to the audio file of the book, which is available for free in the Routledge website. 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 use them in the fill-in-the-blank exercises following the vocabulary. In addition, various cultural themes will be discussed in the photo captions at the beginning of each unit. You are encouraged to listen to the audio file of the book, which includes the vocabulary, dialogues, texts, and photo captions in every unit.

At the end of this year-long introductory course, 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 ease.

The format of the mid term and final exams will be translation and essay writing, which will be held during the examination period, as well as listening and speaking, which will be held during the last two weeks of each semester.

Evaluation:

- 10% attendance and active participation
- 10% timely submission of all assignments
- 20% oral presentations
- 20% midterm examination
- 40% final examination

**Note that there might be minor changes to the following syllabus if required.*

Textbook (available at McGill University bookstore)

Shabani-Jadidi, P. & Brookshaw, D. (2010). *The Routledge Introductory Persian Course: Farsi Shirin Ast 1*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.
The audio recordings of all the lessons are available for free in the following website:
Companion website: www.routledge.com/books/Introductory-Persian-Course

Recommended grammar books

1. Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2012) *Basic Persian: a Grammar and Workbook*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.
2. Tackston, Wheeler (1993) *An Introduction to Persian, Revised 3rd Edition*. IBEX Publishers.

Recommended dictionaries:

1. The combined new Persian-English and English-Persian dictionary, Abbas Aryanpur Kashani and Manoochehr Aryanpur Kashani. Lexington, Ky., USA : Mazda Publishers, 1986.
2. A comprehensive Persian-English dictionary, Steingass. Asian Educational Services, 1992.

Online Dictionaries:

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/steingass/>
<http://www.aryanpour.com/>
<http://www.farsidic.com/>
<http://www.math.columbia.edu/~safari/masood/cgi-bin/>
<http://www.loghatnaameh.org/> (Persian-Persian)

Fall 2015 Syllabus

Weeks	Textbook	Additional
Week 1 Sep 4 Lesson 1: The Persian Alphabet	Reading/Writing Transliteration and the Persian Alphabet Pronunciation Persian Phonology	Additional practice spelling practice pronunciation practice
Week 2 Sep 7-11 Monday Sep 7 Labour Day Lesson 1: The Persian Alphabet	Writing Spelling hints Writing the Alphabet Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: Getting to know someone Speaking Pronunciation of Persian sounds	Additional practice spelling practice pronunciation practice
Week 3 Sep 14-18 Lesson 2: Introduce yourself. Where are you from?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: to be/to have, <i>ezafe</i> Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Accent Colloquial dialogue: Introducing yourself Speaking Introducing yourself What do you do? Where are you from?	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice
Week 4 Sep 21-25 Lesson 3: Is Iran or Canada larger?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: negation and adjectives, comparative and superlative Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: The new professor Colloquial dialogue: Asking for directions Text: Canada and Iran Speaking Asking for address Where are you from? Compare ... and	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice

Week 5 Sep 28-Oct 2 Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: subjective, objective and possessive pronouns; word order in Persian Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Gilan	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short paragraph writing practice
Week 6 Oct 5-9 Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Gilan province Colloquial dialogue: At the bank Speaking Provinces of Iran Bank	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short paragraph writing practice
Week 7 Oct 12-16 Monday Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: sentences; numbers; time expressions Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: New Year	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short paragraph writing practice
Week 8 Oct 19-23 Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Noruz Colloquial dialogue: At the cinema Speaking How do you celebrate the new year? Going to the cinema	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short paragraph writing practice
Week 9 Oct 26-30 Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: verbs: past, present, future Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: The days of the week	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice paragraph writing practice
Week 10 Nov 2-6 Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Friday Colloquial dialogue: At the grocer's Speaking	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice paragraph writing practice

	Days of the week What is your typical day? Grocery shopping	
Week 11 Nov 9-13 Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: subjunctive, imperative Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Sports	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice paragraph writing practice
Week 12 Nov 16-20 Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Football Colloquial dialogue: Sightseeing Speaking What sport do you do? Sightseeing in Iran	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 13 Nov 23-27 Lesson 8: Do you haggle?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: tenses, verb review Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Hagglng	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 14 Nov 30-Dec 4 Lesson 8: Do you haggle?	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?	Oral presentations
Week 15 Dec 7 Lesson 9: What do you believe in?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: nouns, numericals, determiners, demonstratives, definite and indefinite markers Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Religion	Oral presentations

McGill Policy Statements

"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/)."

"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)."