

**Introductory Persian
ISLA 541 (D2)
Winter 2016
M-W-F
Office hours: Mondays 12-1**

**McGill University
Institute of Islamic Studies, Room 308**

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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 I*. 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)

Winter 2016 Syllabus

Weeks	Textbook	Additional
Week 1 Jan 7	Translation practice	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 2 Jan 11-15 Lesson 9: What do you believe in?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: University credits Colloquial dialogue: At the restaurant Speaking What is your religion? What courses are you taking? Going to a restaurant	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 3 Jan 18-22 Lesson 10: Are women and men equal?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: prepositions, reflexive and emphatic pronouns Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: A traditional way of thinking	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 4 Jan 25-29 Lesson 10: Are women and men equal?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Moving house Colloquial dialogue: In the classroom Speaking Who does the house chores? Where is ...? What are you studying?	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 5 Feb 1-5 Lesson 11: Where is Persepolis?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: relative clauses Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Tourist sights	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 6 Feb 8-12	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Shopping	Additional practice sentence-making practice

Lesson 11: Where is Persepolis?	Colloquial dialogue: At the post office Speaking Touristic centres Buying clothes Sending a letter at the post office	translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 7 Feb 15-19 Lesson 12: Is pop music better or traditional music?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: adverbial clauses, conditional sentences, possible and impossible conditionals, impersonal constructions Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Education	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 8 Feb 22-26 Lesson 12: Is pop music better or traditional music?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Favourite singer Colloquial dialogue: At the doctor's surgery Speaking What is the education system like? What kind of music do you like? Who is your favourite singer? Visiting the doctor	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 9 Feb 29-March 4 STUDY BREAK		
Week 10 March 7-11 Lesson 13: What kind of a university is your university?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: passive constructions Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Different kinds of university	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 11 March 14-18 Lesson 13: What kind of a university is your university?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Police station Colloquial dialogue: At the bookstore Speaking What kind of university is your university? Filing a report at the police station	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice

	Buying books at the bookstore	
Week 12 March 21-25 Friday March 25 Good Friday Lesson 14: Are you single or married?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: compounding, derivatives, conjunctions Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Traditional marriage practices	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 13 March 28-April 1 Monday March 28 Easter Monday Lesson 14: Are you single or married?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: The birthday present Colloquial dialogue: Travelling Speaking What is a wedding ceremony like in your country? When is your birthday? What is the best birthday gift you have received? Where is your next travel destination?	Additional practice sentence-making practice translation practice short essay writing practice
Week 14 April 4-8 Lesson 15: Why do you stand on ceremony?	Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: causative verbs, review of tenses Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Book fair	Oral presentation
Week 15 April 11-15 Lesson 15: Why do you stand on ceremony?	Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Beeping your car horn Colloquial dialogue: Standing on ceremony Speaking What kind of books do you read? Who is your favourite author? What is Ta'arof?	Oral presentation

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)."