

Introductory Persian

ISLA 541 (D1)

Fall 2016

M-W-F

Instructor:

Dr. Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi

Pouneh.shabani-jadidi@mcgill.ca

Office hours: Mondays-Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 (Please email before.)

Institute of Islamic Studies, Morrice Hall, Room 308

Teaching Assistant:

Shahrouz Khanjari

shahrouz.khanjari@mail.mcgill.ca

Course Description

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.

Course Goal

At the end of this yearlong 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.

Textbook (available at Paragraph bookstore on 2220 Avenue McGill College)

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: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Introductory-Persian-Course-Farsi-Shirin-Ast/Brookshaw-Shabani-Jadidi/p/book/9780415561013>

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 and resources:

- <http://www.farsidic.com/>
<http://www.loghatnaameh.org/> (Persian-Persian, with authentic examples and pronunciation hint)
<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm>

Evaluation:

Your course grade will be calculated as follows. Each semester is worth 50% of your final grade.

10% attendance and active participation

You will get the full mark if you have no more than 2 absences in total, otherwise, points will be decreased according to the number of your absences.

10% speaking sessions attendance and active participation

There will be 4 one-hour speaking sessions during the week led by the Speaking Session Leader (Shahrouz Khanjari). If you regularly attend 2 out of 4, 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.

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% oral presentations

You will be given small books specifically written for language learners on a variety of literary and cultural themes about Iran. You will present a part of the book in your assigned group. 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 section of the book and speak in your own words with whatever vocabulary you have gained at that level.

10% paper

On the day of your presentation, you must hand in your paper that is based on the complete short book and your evaluation and criticism of it. The papers must be handwritten and 3-4 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, b) critical evaluation, and c) your personal thoughts and experience reading it.

50% final examination

The final examination of the fall semester is from lessons 1-8 inclusively, and it will be regarded as your midterm exam, as this is a yearlong course. The exam will be in the final exams period and scheduled by the University. All the sections of the exam include seen texts and sentences. There are no surprises! The exam has 5 sections: 1-2) one series of English-Persian and one series of Persian-English translation of sentences containing a particular tense or grammatical structure (The sentences are copied from the example sentences throughout each lesson), 3-4) one English-Persian and one Persian-English translation of texts (either the photo captions, or the reading, or the dialogues in each lesson), 5) essay writing (the topics are selected from the titles of the readings or dialogues in the lesson). You will be given options for the sections 3-5, but not for 1-2. Please review your exam paper before handing it over.

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

**Also note that there will be some practice pop quizzes on the grammar in form of translations during the semester, which will not be graded.*

Fall 2016 Syllabus

Weeks	Textbook	Additional
Sep 2	Introduction	
Week 1 Sep 7-9 Sep 9 Library tour Lesson 1: The Persian Alphabet	Reading/Writing Transliteration and the Persian Alphabet Pronunciation Persian Phonology	Additional practice spelling practice pronunciation practice
Week 2 Sep 12-14-16 Lesson 1: The Persian Alphabet	Writing Spelling hints Writing the Alphabet Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: Getting to know	Additional practice spelling practice pronunciation practice

	<p>someone</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Pronunciation of Persian sounds</p>	
<p>Week 3 Sep 19-21-23</p> <p>Lesson 2: Introduce yourself. Where are you from?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building</p> <p>Grammar: to be/to have, <i>ezafe</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: Accent</p> <p>Colloquial dialogue: Introducing yourself</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Introducing yourself</p> <p>What do you do?</p> <p>Where are you from?</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice</p> <p>translation practice</p>
<p>Week 4 Sep 26-28-30</p> <p>Lesson 3: Is Iran or Canada larger?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building</p> <p>Grammar: negation and adjectives, comparative and superlative</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: The new professor</p> <p>Colloquial dialogue: Asking for directions</p> <p>Text: Canada and Iran</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Asking for address</p> <p>Where are you from?</p> <p>Compare ... and</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice</p> <p>translation practice</p>
<p>Week 5 Oct 3-5-7</p> <p>Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building</p> <p>Grammar: subjective, objective and possessive pronouns; word order in Persian</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Gilan</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice</p> <p>translation practice</p> <p>short paragraph writing practice</p>

<p>Week 6 Oct 12-14</p> <p>Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have?</p>	<p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: Gilan province Colloquial dialogue: At the bank</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Provinces of Iran Bank</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice translation practice short paragraph writing practice</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct 17-19-21</p> <p>Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building Grammar: sentences; numbers; time expressions</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: New Year</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice translation practice short paragraph writing practice</p>
<p>Week 8 Oct 26-24-28</p> <p>Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz?</p>	<p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: Noruz Colloquial dialogue: At the cinema</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>How do you celebrate the new year? Going to the cinema</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice translation practice short paragraph writing practice</p>
<p>Week 9 Oct 31 Nov 2-4</p> <p>Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building Grammar: verbs: past, present, future</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: The days of the week</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice translation practice paragraph writing practice</p>
<p>Week 10 Nov 7-9-11</p> <p>Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran?</p>	<p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: Friday Colloquial dialogue: At the grocer's</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Days of the week What is your typical day? Grocery shopping</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice translation practice paragraph writing practice</p>
<p>Week 11 Nov 14-16-18</p> <p>Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building Grammar: subjunctive, imperative</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p>	<p>Additional practice</p> <p>sentence-making practice translation practice paragraph writing practice</p>

	Text: Sports	
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 21-23-25 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 28-30 Dec 2 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 *Papers due on oral presentation day
Week 15 Dec 5	*Oral presentations *Papers due on oral presentation day	*Oral presentations *Papers due on oral presentation day

McGill Policy Statements

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). (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

« 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/).»

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.”
(Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and Evaluation.)

« 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). »