Introductory Persian ISLA 541 (D1) Fall 2017 M-W-F 10:30-11:30

Instructor: Dr. Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi <u>Pouneh.shabani-jadidi@mcgill.ca</u>

Office hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30 (Please email before.) Institute of Islamic Studies, Morrice Hall, Room 308

TA:

Fateme Savadi Fateme.savadi@mail.mcgill.ca

Course Description

In this course, you will be introduced to the Persian language with an intensive focus on the alphabet, which will be demonstrated with examples 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 lesson.

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 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.

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.

Textbooks (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: <u>https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Introductory-Persian-Course-Farsi-Shirin-Ast/Brookshaw-Shabani-Jadidi/p/book/9780415561013</u>
- Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2012) *Basic Persian: a Grammar and Workbook*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

Dictionaries:

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

Online Dictionaries and resources:

https://www.vaiehvab.com (Persian-Persian)

http://www.farsidic.com/ (English-Persian and Persian-English dictionary, not always accurate) http://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm (good resources for useful Persian-related links) http://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/islamiclanguages/persian (good resource available at our own library) http://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/iranianstudies/home (good resource available at our own library)

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 and active participation

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

10% pop quizzes

You will write 5 pop quizzes, one after every two lessons or each lesson. The dates are marked in the syllabus.

10% speaking sessions attendance and active participation

There will be 3 one-hour speaking sessions during the week organized and led by the TA of the course (Fateme Savadi). 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.

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% final oral presentations

You and your teammate will be given a small simplified book specifically written for language learners on a variety of literary and cultural themes about Iran later in the semester. You will present half of the book 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 book 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 the complete short book and your evaluation and criticism of it. Therefore, you must work with your teammate closely, <u>but you should each give a different paper</u>. Every student is evaluated individually. The papers must be handwritten and 2 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 two sections of: a) summary, and b) your personal thoughts and experience reading it.

10% final oral exam

At the end of the semester, the TA will organize individual oral exams for everyone. Both the instructor and the TA will be present. Themes will be the themes covered in class and in speaking sessions. Each student will randomly draw a theme written on a paper and talk about it.

30% 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 several times before handing it over.

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

Weeks	Textbook	Additional
Week 1	Reading/Writing	Basic Persian
Sep 6-8	Transliteration and the Persian Alphabet	Chapter 1
Library Tour 11:15	Pronunciation	
Lesson 1: The Persian	Persian Phonology	
Alphabet		
Week 2 Sep 11-13-15	Writing	Basic Persian
	Spelling hints	Chapter 1
Lesson 1: The Persian	Writing the Alphabet	
Alphabet	Reading/Writing	Pop Quiz: Chapter 1
	Colloquial dialogue: Getting to know	
	someone	
	Speaking	
	Pronunciation of Persian sounds	
Week 3 Sep 18-20-22	Language use and usage	Basic Persian
	Vocabulary building	Chapter 2
Lesson 2: Introduce	Grammar: to be/to have, ezafe	
yourself. Where are you	Reading/Writing	
from?	Formal dialogue: Accent	

Fall 2017 Syllabus

Speaking Introducing yourself What do you do? Where are you from?Basic PersianWeek 4 Sep 25-27-29Canguage use and usage Vocabulary buildingBasic Persian Chapter 4Lesson 3: Is Iran or Camada larger?Grammar: negation and adjectives, comparative and superlative Por Quiz: Chapter 2-3Pop Quiz: Chapter 2-3Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: The new professor Colloquial dialogue: Asking for directions Text: Canada and Iran Speaking Asking for address Where are you from? Compare andPop Quiz: Chapter 2-3Week 5 Oct 2-4-6Language use and usage Vocabulary buildingBasic Persian Chapter 3Vocabulary building provinces does Iran have?Grammar: subjective, objective and possessive pronouns; word order in Persian Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Gilan provinceBasic Persian Chapter 10Week 6 Oct 11-13Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Gilan provinceBasic Persian Chapter 10Week 6 Oct 11-13Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: At the bank Speaking Provinces of Iran BankBasic Persian Chapter 10Week 7 Oct 16-18-20Language use and usage Vocabulary buildingBasic Persian Chapter 8Week 7 Oct 16-18-20Canguage use and usage Vocabulary buildingBasic Persian Cha		Colloquial dialogue: Introducing yourself	
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	Formal dialogue: Noruz	
Week 8	Reading	Basic Persian
Oct 23-25-27	comprehension/Translation/Writing	Chapter 6
Lesson 5: What do you	Text: New Year	
know about Noruz?	Reading/Writing	Pop Quiz: Chapter 4-5
	Colloquial dialogue: At the cinema	
	Speaking	
	How do you celebrate the new year?	
	Going to the cinema	
Week 9	Language use and usage	Basic Persian
Oct 30-Nov 1-3	Vocabulary building	Chapters 5 & 11
Lesson 6: What day is the	Grammar: verbs: past, present, future	
weekend in Iran?	Reading/Writing	
	Formal dialogue: Friday	
Week 10	Reading	Basic Persian
Nov 6-8-10	comprehension/Translation/Writing	Chapter 7
Lesson 6: What day is the	Text: The days of the week	
weekend in Iran?	Reading/Writing	
	Colloquial dialogue: At the grocer's	
	Speaking	
	Days of the week	
	What is your typical day?	
	Grocery shopping	
Week 11	Language use and usage	Basic Persian
Nov 13-15-17	Vocabulary building	Chapter 9
Lesson 7: What is your	Grammar: subjunctive, imperative	
favourite sport?	Reading/Writing	
	Formal dialogue: Football	
Week 12	Reading	Basic Persian
Nov 20-22-24	comprehension/Translation/Writing	Chapter 14
Lesson 7: What is your	Text: Sports	
favourite sport?	Reading/Writing	Pop Quiz: Chapter 6-7
	Colloquial dialogue: Sightseeing	
	Speaking	
	What sport do you do?	
	Sightseeing in Iran	
Week 13	Language use and usage	Basic Persian
Nov 27-29 Dec 1		

Lesson 8: Do you haggle?	Vocabulary building Grammar: tenses, verb review	Chapter 15
	Reading	Pop Quiz: Chapter 8
	comprehension/Translation/Writing	
	Text: Haggling	
	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?	
Week 14	*Oral presentations	*Oral presentations
Dec 4-6-7 Dec 7 for Labor Day	*Papers due on oral presentation day	*Papers due on oral
Monday		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 <u>www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/</u> 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). »