

Upper Intermediate Persian II

ISLA 544

Winter 2016

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

Upper Intermediate Level

During this year, you will read a variety of news excerpts from the newspapers printed inside Iran (*Ettelā'āt*, *Keyhān*, *Sharq*, *E'temād*, *Irān*, and *Mardomsālāri*).

The aim of this course is to provide you with an opportunity to read authentic texts in Persian. Through various exercises, you will be familiar with the news terminology as well as other complex expressions and proverbs used throughout the news articles.

Through extensive exercises, you will acquire the skill to grasp the information contained within each news title and sub-title. In addition, in each lesson, there are some activities that are required to be done in pairs, which is conducive to a student-centered task-based approach. This way, you will learn from your teammates and will have less anxiety when speaking your L2.

There are also some exercises that require you to write similar news articles and share them with your teammates. This will make the class dynamics a lively and informative one.

In addition, the way the exercises appear is from the most general to the most specific questions. Therefore, you will have a chance to grasp the language as a whole and then smoothly get to the subtleties in the vocabulary and structure you have encountered in the texts. Every week, you read several pages of the above-mentioned newspapers and do the relevant exercises.

Other than the textbook, every week, we will practice translating a Persian prose or poetry text from Persian-English or English-Persian. This way, I will learn where your grammatical and syntactic problems are and help you master them. At the end of this semester, you will have acquired a vast scope of vocabulary and news terminology, as well as different ways of paraphrasing a structure to a different structure while having a similar meaning. You will be able to read and translate complex Persian texts with ease.

As your term project, you will give an oral presentation as well as a paper on a short Persian book selected between you and the professor that is relevant to the topic of your studies.

The format of the final exam 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 week of each semester.

Evaluation:

10% attendance and active participation

10% timely submission of all assignments

20% oral presentation

20% paper

40% final examination

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

Textbook (available at McGill bookstore)

Shabani-Jadidi, P. (2015). *What the Persian Media Says. A Course book*. Routledge. Taylor and Francis Group. London & New York.

Recommended

- Brookshaw, Dominic. (2011). *Media Persian*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Mohajeri, A. A. (1990). *A Glossary of Journalism: Persian-English*. Volume 1. Mojdeh Publications Organization, Tehran, Iran.
- Mohajeri, A. A. (1990). *A Glossary of Journalism: English-Persian*. Volume 2. Mojdeh Publications Organization, Tehran, Iran.
- Thackston, W. (2009). *An Introduction to Persian*. Revised Fourth Edition. IBEX Publishers.
- Virginia Hillmann, Michael Craig and Sarraf, Ramin. (1996). *Persian Newspaper Reader*. Dunwoody Press, Kensington, Maryland.
- Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2012) *Basic Persian: a Grammar and Workbook*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.
- Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2013) *Intermediate Persian: a Grammar and Workbook*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

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 Dictionary:

<http://www.loghatnaameh.org/> (Persian-Persian)

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/steingass/>

<http://www.aryanpour.com/>

<http://www.farsidic.com/>

<http://www.math.columbia.edu/~safari/masood/cgi-bin/>

Winter 2016 Syllabus

Weeks	Mondays	Wednesdays	Fridays
Week 1 Jan 7	Translation practice	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice Persian-English (literary/historical)
Week 2 Jan 11-15 Lesson 14 <i>Keyhān</i> : Crimes and disasters	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice English-Persian (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 3 Jan 18-22 Lesson 15 <i>Sharq</i> : Social issues	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice Persian-English (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 4 Jan 25-29 Lesson 16 <i>E'temād</i> : National and international news (front page) – Thought	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice English-Persian (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)

Week 5 Feb 1-5 Lesson 17 <i>Irān</i> : National and international news (front page) – Politics	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice Persian-English (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 6 Feb 8-12 Lesson 18 <i>Mardomsālāri</i> : National and international news (front page) – Politics	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice English-Persian (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 7 Feb 15-19 Lesson 19 <i>E'temād</i> : Literature and arts – Literature and arts	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice Persian-English (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 8 Feb 22-26 Lesson 20 <i>Irān</i> : Theater – Thought	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice English-Persian (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)

	Speaking International news		
Week 9 Feb 29-March 4 STUDY BREAK			
Week 10 March 7-11 Lesson 21 <i>Mardomsālāri</i> : Arts – National	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice Persian-English (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 11 March 14-18 Lesson 22 <i>E'temād</i> : Social issues – Crimes and disasters	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice English-Persian (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 12 March 21-25 Friday March 25 Good Friday Lesson 23 <i>Irān</i> : National news – Social issues	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice Persian-English (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 13 March 28-April 1 Monday March 28 Easter Monday Lesson 24	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice English-Persian (literary/historical

<i>Mardomsālāri:</i> Health – Arts	Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news		text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 14 April 4-8 Lesson 25 <i>E'temād:</i> Politics – Politics	Language use and usage Advanced vocabulary building Arabic Plural practice Reading comprehension Scanning and skimming skills Writing Sentence making Paraphrasing Essay writing Speaking International news	Course pack on Persian literature	Additional translation practice Persian-English (literary/historical text/travelogue, etc.)
Week 15 April 11-15			Oral presentations and papers due

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)."