



McGill

Institute of  
Islamic Studies

Institut  
d'études islamiques

**Introductory Persian Fall 2021**  
**ISLA 242/641 (D1)**  
**M-W 2:30-4:00 More 313**

**Instructor:**

**Dr. Manya Saadi-nejad**

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Office hours: By appointment through email

**TA:**

**Mr. Behzad Borhan**

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**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 language culture. Before each class, you are required 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.

**The TA will hold 5 conversation hours for you to practice your speaking in smaller groups. You are strongly encouraged to attend at least two of those sessions per week. These hours will be flexible to accommodate all of you.**

## 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 relative ease. You will also be able to understand and speak about simple everyday topics and cultural themes with relative ease.

## Required Textbook (You can get the eBook if you prefer)

Shabani-Jadidi, P. & Brookshaw, D. (2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *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/Shabani-Jadidi-Brookshaw/p/book/9781138496798>

## Recommended Dictionary

Dehghani, Y. (2006). *Persian-English English-Persian Learner's Dictionary*. Ibex Publishers, Bethesda, MD.

## Online Dictionaries and Resources

<http://www.farsidic.com/> (English-Persian and Persian-English dictionary)

<https://www.vajehyab.com> (Persian-Persian dictionary)

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm> (good resource for useful Persian-related links)

[www.persianlanguageonline.com](http://www.persianlanguageonline.com) (good online resource for the beginning level)

[http://sites.la.utexas.edu/persian\\_online\\_resources/](http://sites.la.utexas.edu/persian_online_resources/) (good online resource for grammar and quizzes)

## 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.*

### 15% Timely submission of all assignments

Each week, you will get 1/15 point for timely completion of the week's assignment. Late or incomplete submission of assignments will cost you 50% of the mark. You must write down the questions and your answers. Do not photocopy the pages and simply fill in the blanks.

### 5% Participating in conversation hours held weekly by the TA

You are strongly encouraged to participate at least two sessions per week. The TA will give me your grade at the end of the semester.

#### 15% Final oral interview with instructor

I will conduct a 10 minutes interview with each student in class during the last weeks of the class. Each student will choose a time and day in consultation with the instructor for this interview. The topics will be the topics covered in the textbook.

#### 15% Final paper

By the last day of our class, each student will have a final paper (any topic related to Iran, to be discussed with Instructor). All papers must be posted in myCourses on the due day. The papers must be handwritten and 2-3 pages long.

### **Things to do for your class**

1. You must read and listen to the audio file of the designated sections of each lesson on your own before the class so that during the class, you can ask your questions and practice your Persian.
2. Due to the nature of the course and its being a language course, you are strongly encouraged to attend all classes.
3. All assignments must be posted in myCourses on the due day specified in the syllabus below. Please note that myCourses will automatically send all communications to your @mail.mcgill.ca email. Instructors are unable to change this setting.
4. The instructor is available throughout the semester to answer your questions; therefore, you can write your questions via email or you can ask for an appointment with the instructor to ask your questions.

### **Copyright**

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## Fall 2021 Syllabus

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

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Textbook (Listen and read!)</b>	<b>Assignments due by the end of the week (Write!)</b>
<b>Week 1 Sep 1</b>	Lesson 1: The Persian Alphabet	Copy the alphabet twice and write your first and last name
<b>Week 2 Sep 6-8</b>	Lesson 1: The Persian Alphabet	Exercises of lesson 1 Pages 12, 13, 14
<b>Week 3 Sep 13-15</b>	Lesson 2: Introduce yourself. Where are you from? Vocabularies, dialogue, grammar	Exercises of lesson 2 Pages 21, 22, 24, 25, 26
<b>Week 4 Sep 20-22</b>	Lesson 3: Is Iran or Canada larger? Vocabularies, dialogue, grammar	Exercises of lesson 3 Pages 30, 31, 32, 33
<b>Week 5 Sep 27-29</b>	Lesson 3: Is Iran or Canada larger? Reading, grammar, colloquial dialogue	Exercises of lesson 3 Pages 34, 35, 36
<b>Week 6 Oct 4-6</b>	Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have? Vocabularies, dialogue, grammar	Exercises of lesson 4 Pages 41, 44, 45
<b>Week 7 Oct 11 (Oct 13: Fall Reading Break)</b>	Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have? Reading, grammar, colloquial dialogue	Exercises of lesson 4 Pages 46, 47, 48
<b>Week 8 Oct 18-20</b>	Lesson 5: What do you know about Norouz? Vocabularies, dialogue, grammar	Exercises of lesson 5 Pages 54, 57, 58, 59
<b>Week 9 Oct 25-27</b>	Lesson 5: What do you know about Norouz? Reading, grammar, colloquial dialogue	Exercises of lesson 5 Pages 61, 62, 63, 64
<b>Week 10 Nov 1-3</b>	Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran? Vocabularies, dialogue, grammar	Exercises of lesson 6 Pages 69, 72
<b>Week 11 Nov 8-10</b>	Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran? Reading, grammar, colloquial dialogue	Exercises of lesson 6 Pages 73, 74, 75
<b>Week 12 Nov 15-17</b>	Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport? Vocabularies, dialogue, grammar	Exercises of lesson 7 Pages 81, 84, 85
<b>Week 13 Nov 22-24</b>	Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport? Reading, grammar, colloquial dialogue	Exercises of lesson 7 Pages 86, 87, 88
<b>Week 14 Nov 29– Dec 1</b>	Lesson 8: Do you haggle? Vocabularies, dialogue, grammar	Exercises of lesson 8 Pages 94, 96

<b>Week 15</b> <b>Dec 6</b>	Lesson 8: Do you haggle? Reading, grammar, colloquial dialogue	Exercises of lesson 8 Pages 97, 98, 99, 100
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## 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/](http://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/](http://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). »