



**McGill**

Institute of  
Islamic Studies

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## **Upper Intermediate Persian I**

**ISLA 443/643 (D1) Fall 2021**

**M-W 11:30-1:00 SH688 355**

### **Instructor:**

**Dr. Manya Saadi-nejad**

[Manya.saadinejad@mcgill.ca](mailto:Manya.saadinejad@mcgill.ca)

**Office hours: By appointment through email**

### **Course Description**

In Upper Intermediate Persian, you will read authentic texts about Persian culture, history, geography, politics, arts, and other topics relevant to Iran. You will also read about different modern and classical poets and you will learn their canonical poems. In addition, you will learn various proverbs and their meanings and connotations.

Students will strengthen their Persian language proficiency by participating in class discussions, reading classical and modern Persian prose and poetry, writing texts on different genres, and delivering presentations during the course of the semester. Each student will be assigned a Persian book to read for their final presentation and paper.

### **Course Goal**

At the end of this course, you will have read a wide variety of classical and modern Persian poetry as well as different texts in various styles. Therefore, you will be able to read, write, understand and speak about a variety of literary, historical, cultural and other related topics with relative ease.

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

Shabani-Jadidi, Pouneh. (2020). *The Routledge Advanced Persian Course: Farsi Shirin Ast III*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

### **Recommended supplementary material**

Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2013). *Intermediate Persian: a Grammar and Workbook*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group. London & New York.

### **Online Dictionaries**

**Farsi 123:** online Persian-English Dictionary.  
<http://farsi123.com/>

**Aryanpour Dictionary:** a simple online dictionary that provides Persian to English and English to Persian translation. This source is not always accurate.  
<http://www.aryanpour.com>

**Farsi Dictionary:** almost identical to Aryanpour Dictionary.  
<http://www.farsidic.com>

**Francis Joseph Steingass Persian-English Dictionary:** in use since the 1870's, it is the most complete and concise Persian dictionary. The collection of definitions is exceptional and has yet to be surpassed. Persian language and literature scholars retain this dictionary as a principal source for information.  
<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/steingass>  
(Note: A German native, Steingass learned Persian as a second language.)

**Vajehyab Online Persian-Persian Dictionary:** a great resource for pronunciation, definitions and authentic examples from classical and modern Persian literature.  
<https://www.vajehyab.com>

## Other Resources

**University of Texas at Austin Persian:** a unique and extensive resource for Persian language learning. Search through it in your spare time. Of particular interest are the Persian Verb Conjugation and Joining and Disjoining Persian Letters, both found in "Archived News" on the home page.  
[http://sites.la.utexas.edu/persian\\_online\\_resources/](http://sites.la.utexas.edu/persian_online_resources/)

**Persian verb conjugator:** an online conjugator for Persian verbs. It can conjugate Persian verbs in all tenses, aspects and moods. Type the infinitive of the verb you want and then, click on Conjugate button or hit Enter on your keyboard.  
<http://www.jahanshiri.ir/>

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

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

## Useful Links

Persian News Links: <http://www.gooya.com/>  
BBC Persian News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/>  
VOA Persian News: <http://ir.voanews.com/>  
Persian Culture: <http://www.ichto.ir/>  
Persian Classical poetry: <https://ganjoor.net>  
Persian audiobooks: <http://ketabkhaneyegooya.blogspot.ca>  
McGill Library Resources: <http://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/islamiclanguages/persian>  
<http://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/iranianstudies/home>

## **Evaluation**

*Your course grade will be calculated as follows.*

### 30% Timely submission of all assignments

Each week, you will get 2/30 points for timely completion of the week's assignment. Late or incomplete submission of assignments will cost you 50% of the grade.

### 30% Final oral interview with instructor

I will conduct a 15-20 minutes interview with each student during the last two 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.

### 20% Final paper

Each student will be assigned a Persian book to read for their final presentation and paper. By the last day of our class, each student has to post on myCourses the scan of a paper about the book and its author. The papers must be handwritten and 7-8 pages long.

### 20% Final oral presentation

Each student must give 20-30-minute presentation in class (date and topic to be determined with Instructor and can be about her or his final paper.) The oral presentation and the paper **MUST NOT** be exactly the same. You must try to be as fluent and as natural as possible in your presentation.

## **Things to do for online learning**

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 the class.

3. All assignments must be posted on 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.

5. The instructor is available throughout the semester to answer your questions; therefore, you can write your questions via email or you can ask an appointment with the instructor to ask your questions.

## Copyright

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g. zoom recordings, PowerPoint slides, notes, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

## Course Schedule Fall 2020

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

Weeks	Textbook (Listen and read!)	Assignments due by the end of the week (Write!)
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Sep 1</b>	Lesson 1 Text: Football	Exercises of lesson 1 Pages 3, 4, 5
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Sep 6-8</b>	Lesson 1 Poet: Nima Yushij Proverb	Exercises of lesson 1 Page 6
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Sep 13-15</b>	Lesson 2 Text: Darius the Great Poet: Forugh Farrokhzad Proverb	Exercises of lesson 2 Pages 10, 11, 12, 14
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Sep 20-22</b>	Lesson 3 Text: Marriage in Tribal Societies Poet: Fereydoon Moshiri Proverb	Exercises of lesson 3 Pages 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Sep 27-29</b>	Lesson 4 Text: Marlik Hill Poet: Sohrab Sepehri Proverb	Exercises of lesson 4 Pages 25, 26, 27, 28, 29
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Oct 4-6</b>	Lesson 5 Text: Tehran	Exercises of lesson 5 Pages 32, 33, 34
<b>Week 7</b> <b>Oct 11 (Oct 13: Fall Reading Break)</b>	Lesson 5 Poet: Simin Behbahani Proverb	Exercises of lesson 5 Page 35
<b>Week 8</b>	Lesson 6	Exercises of lesson 6

<b>Oct 18-20</b>	Text: Shirin and Farhad Poet: Nader Naderpour	Pages 39, 40, 41, 43, 44
<b>Week 9 Oct 25-27</b>	Lesson 7 Text: Roads and Road Building Poet: Ahmad Shamlu	Exercises of lesson 7 Pages 47, 48, 49, 50, 51
<b>Week 10 Nov 1-3</b>	Lesson 8 Text: The Railroad Poet: Shahriar Proverb	Exercises of lesson 8 Pages 55, 56, 57, 58
<b>Week 11 Nov 8-10</b>	Lesson 9 Text: Famines of Iran Poet: Rudaki Proverb	Exercises of lesson 9 Pages 60, 61, 62, 63, 64
<b>Week 12 Nov 15-17</b>	Lesson 10 Text: Natural heritage of Iran Poet: Ferdowsi Proverb	Exercises of lesson 10 Pages 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72
<b>Week 13 Nov 22-24</b>	Lesson 11 Text: The bazaar Poet: Khayyam Proverb	Exercises of lesson 11 Pages 75, 76, 77, 78
<b>Week 14 Nov 29 – Dec 1</b>	Lesson 12 Text: Nakhil Gadani	Exercises of lesson 12 Pages 81, 82, 83
<b>Week 15 Dec 6</b>	Lesson 12 Poet: Attar Proverb	Exercises of lesson 12 Page 84

## 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). »