

Introductory Persian

ISLA 541 (D1)

Fall 2017

M-W-F 10:30-11:30

Instructor:

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Office hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30 (Please email before.)

Institute of Islamic Studies, Morrice Hall, Room 308

TA:

Fateme Savadi

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

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.vajehyab.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 in 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, but you should each give a different paper. 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.*

Fall 2017 Syllabus

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

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| | <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>Week 4 Sep 25-27-29</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>Basic Persian</p> <p>Chapter 4</p> <p>Pop Quiz: Chapter 2-3</p> |
| <p>Week 5 Oct 2-4-6</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/Writing</p> <p>Formal dialogue: Gilan province</p> | <p>Basic Persian</p> <p>Chapter 3</p> |
| <p>Week 6 Oct 11-13</p> <p>Oct 9 Thanksgiving Day</p> <p>Lesson 4: How many provinces does Iran have?</p> | <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Gilan</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Colloquial dialogue: At the bank</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Provinces of Iran</p> <p>Bank</p> | <p>Basic Persian</p> <p>Chapter 10</p> |
| <p>Week 7 Oct 16-18-20</p> <p>Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz?</p> | <p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary building</p> <p>Grammar: sentences; numbers; time expressions</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> | <p>Basic Persian</p> <p>Chapter 8</p> |

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| | Formal dialogue: Noruz | |
| Week 8 Oct 23-25-27 Lesson 5: What do you know about Noruz? | Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: New Year Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: At the cinema Speaking How do you celebrate the new year? Going to the cinema | Basic Persian Chapter 6 Pop Quiz: Chapter 4-5 |
| Week 9 Oct 30-Nov 1-3 Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran? | Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: verbs: past, present, future Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Friday | Basic Persian Chapters 5 & 11 |
| Week 10 Nov 6-8-10 Lesson 6: What day is the weekend in Iran? | Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: The days of the week Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: At the grocer's Speaking Days of the week What is your typical day? Grocery shopping | Basic Persian Chapter 7 |
| Week 11 Nov 13-15-17 Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport? | Language use and usage Vocabulary building Grammar: subjunctive, imperative Reading/Writing Formal dialogue: Football | Basic Persian Chapter 9 |
| Week 12 Nov 20-22-24 Lesson 7: What is your favourite sport? | Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Sports Reading/Writing Colloquial dialogue: Sightseeing Speaking What sport do you do? Sightseeing in Iran | Basic Persian Chapter 14 Pop Quiz: Chapter 6-7 |
| Week 13 Nov 27-29 Dec 1 | Language use and usage | Basic Persian |

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| Lesson 8: Do you haggle? | Vocabulary building Grammar: tenses, verb review Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Hagglng 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? | Chapter 15 Pop Quiz: Chapter 8 |
| Week 14 Dec 4-6-7 Dec 7 for Labor Day Monday | *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). »