

Lower Intermediate Persian

ISLA 542 (D2)

Winter 2018

M-W-F 9:30-10:30

Instructor:

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Office hours: Mondays 12:30-13:30 (Please email before.)

Institute of Islamic Studies, Morrice Hall, Room 308

TA:

Sajjad Nikfahm Khubravan

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Course Description

This level focuses on a variety of authentic texts. 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. Grammatical points covered last year will be repeated in Persian. Try to read them and reinforce the structures you learned in the first year.

In addition, every week, you will be familiarized with a different topic that is discussed in the media. You will be given the specific words and expressions used in that topic, and you will use them in language usage exercises following the vocabulary.

Persian language and Persian literature are closely tied; therefore, you will be introduced to different modern and classical prose and poetry at this level.

In addition, you will learn morphological, semantic and syntactic complexities of the Persian language. You will be involved in different tasks and exercises to acquire these complexities.

In addition, various cultural themes will be discussed in the photo captions at the end of each unit. You are encouraged to listen to the audio file of the book, which is available for free in the Routledge website and includes all the texts in each lesson.

Course Goal

At the end of this yearlong intermediate course, you will have read a wide variety of classical and modern Persian texts both in prose and poetry. Therefore, you will be able to read, write, understand and speak about a variety of literary, historical, cultural and journalistic topics with relative ease.

Textbooks (available at Paragraph bookstore on 2220 Avenue McGill College)

Brookshaw, D. & Shabani-Jadidi, P. (2012). *The Routledge Intermediate Persian Course: Farsi Shirin Ast II*. 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-Intermediate-Persian-Course-Farsi-Shirin-Ast-Book-Two/Brookshaw-Shabani-Jadidi/p/book/9780415691376>

Yousef, S. & Torabi, H. (2013) *Intermediate 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 Dictionary and other resources:

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

<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)

Online Audio Books: (Great resource to practice listening and pronunciation)

<http://ketabkhaneyegooya.blogspot.ca>

Online Persian Poetry: (Great resource to enjoy a variety of classical and modern Persian poetry)

<http://ganjoor.net>

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 2 one-hour speaking sessions during the week organized and led by the TA of the course (Sajjad Nikfahm KhubraVan). 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, 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 will choose one of the classical Persian prose or poetry texts covered in the textbook and do an extensive library research about the text, its author, and other works of the author. 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 paper 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 your research. Your paper must be handwritten and 5 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 three sections of: a) text and your critical evaluation, b) author, and c) other works of the author.

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 9-15 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 in the textbook. There are no surprises! The exam has 6 sections: 1-2) one English-Persian and one Persian-English translation of “reading texts” at the beginning of each lesson or the poem or text in the “Let’s know more” or the text in some of the “Let’s get to know Iran better”, 3) one Persian-English translation of the literature excerpt in each lesson, 4-5) one series of English-Persian and one series of Persian-English translation of media sentences contained in each lesson, 6) essay writing (the topics are selected from the titles of the texts in the lesson, you are going to choose one out of the two topics given to write your essay). Please review your exam paper several times before handing it over.

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

Winter 2018 Syllabus

Weeks	Textbook	Speaking topics
Week 1 Jan 8-10-12 Lesson 9: How many of Iran’s provinces do you know?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: past participle Reading/Writing Let’s get to know Iran better: Kilim Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Mazandaran Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Science and technology Colloquial/literary Persian Goli Taraghi, <i>Birth</i> Speaking Provinces of Iran	Intermediate Persian Chapter 6

	Goli Taraghi and her works What are some recent scientific breakthroughs?	
Week 2 Jan 15-17-19 Lesson 10: What is mourning?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: reported speech Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Symbolic coffin Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Let's know more: Sayings Speaking How is kilim different from other rugs? What are the most modern energy sources?	Intermediate Persian Chapter 1
Week 3 Jan 22-24-26 Lesson 10: What is mourning?	Classical Persian prose <i>The Tarikh-i Bayhaghi</i> Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Energy Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Pilgrim Speaking <i>Tarikh-i Bayhaghi</i> and its author How is pilgrimage different in different religions? What are some ancient rituals of Iranians?	Pop Quiz 1: Lessons 9-10
Week 4 Jan 29-31 Feb 2 Lesson 11: Who is your favourite poet?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: passive Let's know more: Affixes (inflectional and derivational) Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Firdawsi's Shaahnama Speaking Firdawsi's Shaahnama and other Shaahnamas.	Intermediate Persian Chapter 9
Week 5 Feb 5-7-9 Lesson 11: Who is your favourite poet?	Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Synagogue Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: The environment Classical Persian prose <i>Qabusnaama</i>	

	Speaking <i>Qabusnaama</i> and its author. What do you do to protect the environment?	
Week 6 Feb 12-14-16 Lesson 12: What are the main characteristics of people's clothing in your country?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: the tense and person of the verb Let's know more: Inflectional affixes Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Men's and women's clothing in Iran Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Let's know more: Omar Khayyam Speaking How has men's and women's clothing changed through time? How are places of worship different in different religions? What has the UN done to establish world peace?	Intermediate Persian Chapter 2
Week 7 Feb 19-21-23 Lesson 12: What are the main characteristics of people's clothing in your country?	Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Development and aid Classical Persian prose <i>Kimia-yi Sa'aadat</i> Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Potter Speaking <i>Kimia-yi Sa'aadat</i> and its author Omar Khayyam and his works What do you know about pottery in Iran?	Pop Quiz 1: Lessons 11-12
Week 8 Feb 26-28 March 2 Lesson 13: What day of the year is New Year's Day in Iran?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: subjunctives Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: The Norouz table setting Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Let's know more: Sa'di Speaking What are some customs associated with Norouz? What is the origin of Norouz?	Intermediate Persian Chapter 4

Week 9 March 5-9	STUDY BREAK	STUDY BREAK
Week 10 March 12-14-16 Lesson 13: What day of the year is New Year's Day in Iran?	Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Culture Classical Persian prose <i>Marzubaan-naama</i> Reading/Writing Let's know more: Hafiz Speaking <i>Marzubaan-naama</i> and its author What is considered high culture in Iran?	
Week 11 March 19-21-23 Noruz Wed 21 at 10:10 am Lesson 14: Can natural disasters be prevented?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: conditionals Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Famine in Iran Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Hafiz's tomb Speaking What are some examples of natural disasters in Iran? What is the latest sports news? How is the urban planning in Iran?	Intermediate Persian Chapter 5
Week 12 March 26-28 Friday 30 Good Friday Holiday Lesson 14: Can natural disasters be prevented?	Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Sport Classical Persian prose <i>Maqaamaat-i Hamidi</i> Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Alley Speaking What do you know about Hafiz and his works? What do you know about Sa'di and his works?	Pop Quiz 1: Lessons 13-14

Week 13 April 4-6 April 2 Easter Monday Holiday Lesson 15: What do you know about Islam?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: impersonal constructions Language use and usage Let's know more: Compounding Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Islam in Iran Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Common media vocabulary Speaking What are different purposes of mosques? What is the latest national news?	Intermediate Persian Chapter 7
Week 14 April 9 April 11-13	Classical Persian prose <i>Kalila va Dimnai</i> Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Mosque Speaking Different manuscripts and translations of <i>alila va Dimnai</i> . Fables April 11-13 Oral presentations and papers due	Pop Quiz 1: Lessons 9-15
Week 15 April 16	April 16 Oral presentations and papers due	

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). »