

Lower Intermediate Persian

ISLA 542 (D1)

Fall 2017

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

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

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 4 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 (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, 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 modern 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 4 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 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 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.*

Fall 2017 Syllabus

Weeks	Textbook	Additional
Week 1 Sep 6-8 Lesson 1: Which sport are you interested in?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: simple sentences Let’s know more: Compound verbs Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Football	Intermediate Persian Chapter 8 Initial in-class essay
Week 2 Sep 11-13-15 Lesson 1: Which sport are you interested in?	Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: general media vocabulary Colloquial/literary Persian Jalal Al-e Ahmad, <i>Preparing the nation</i> Reading/Writing Let’s get to know Iran better: Script Speaking	

	<p>Explain a sport in detail.</p> <p>Jalal Al-e Ahmad and his works</p> <p>What are the current news headlines?</p> <p>How was pre-Islamic Persian written?</p> <p>Is Arabic alphabet suitable to write in Persian?</p> <p>How is divorce in your civil law?</p> <p>What is the political system like in your country?</p>	
<p>Week 3 Sep 18-20-22</p> <p>Lesson 2: Which issues normally cause divorce?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: simple sentences</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Divorce in Iran's tribal communities</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing</p> <p>Media Persian: Politic and government</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian</p> <p>Chapter 12</p>
<p>Week 4 Sep 25-27-29</p> <p>Lesson 2: Which issues normally cause divorce?</p>	<p>Colloquial/literary Persian</p> <p>Jalal Al-e Ahmad, <i>Samanu cooking</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's know more: Forugh Farrokhzad</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Wind tower</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Forugh Farrokhzad and her works</p> <p>What do you know about wind towers?</p> <p>What are other particularities of Persian architecture?</p> <p>What do you know about the archeological sites in Iran?</p>	<p>Pop quiz: Lessons 1-2</p>
<p>Week 5 Oct 2-4-6</p> <p>Lesson 3: What do you know about Iran's ancient sites?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: subject and predicate/ simple and compound sentences</p> <p>Let's know more: Morphology</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Tepe Maarlik</p>	

	Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Elections Colloquial/literary Persian Goli Taraghi, <i>Hibernation</i> Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Mud brick Speaking Goli Taraghi and her works How are buildings made in Iran? How is election in your country?	
Week 6 Oct 11-13 Oct 9 Thanksgiving Day Lesson 4: What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the capital?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: exclamatory sentences Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Tehran Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Security and conflict	Intermediate Persian Chapter 11
Week 7 Oct 16-18-20 Lesson 4: What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the capital?	Colloquial/literary Persian Moniru Ravanipur, <i>The long night</i> Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Let's know more: Fereydun Moshiri Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Motorway Speaking Fereydun Moshiri and his works Moniru Ravanipur and her works How is the traffic different in Iran and in your country? What can be done to decrease air pollution? What is Tehran famous for? How did the "imposed war" affect Iran?	Pop quiz: Lessons 3-4
Week 8 Oct 23-25-27 Lesson 5: Which do you prefer: poetry or prose?	Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: <i>chon/cho</i> Let's know more: Morpheme types	Intermediate Persian Chapter 13

	<p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Nezami Ganjavi</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Law and order</p> <p>Colloquial/literary Persian Zoya Pirzad, <i>The acrid taste of persimmons</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Pillar</p> <p>Speaking Who are the most celebrated poets of Iran? Nezami Ganjavi and his works Zoya Pirzad and her works How is law and order established in Iran?</p>	
<p>Week 9 Oct 30-Nov 1-3</p> <p>Lesson 6: What are the pros and cons of travelling by train?</p>	<p>Language use and usage Vocabulary and Structure Exercises Grammar: Arabic broken plurals</p> <p>Reading comprehension/Translation/Writing Text: Railways</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing Media Persian: Human rights</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian Chapter 3</p>
<p>Week 10 Nov 6-8-10</p> <p>Lesson 6: What are the pros and cons of travelling by train?</p>	<p>Colloquial/literary Persian Ahmad Mahmud, <i>Scorched Earth</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing Let's know more: Sadeq Hedayat</p> <p>Reading/Writing Let's get to know Iran better: Pigeon tower</p> <p>Speaking Ahmad Mahmud and his works Sadeq Hedayat and his works Have you ever seen a Pigeon tower? What is the best way to travel? Why is the pillar so important in architecture in Iran? What are some human rights issues in Iran?</p>	<p>Pop quiz: Lessons 5-6</p>
<p>Week 11 Nov 13-15-17</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p>	<p>Intermediate Persian</p>

<p>Lesson 7: What do you do to protect the environment?</p>	<p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: compound nouns</p> <p>Let's know more: affixes</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Iran's natural geography</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing</p> <p>Media Persian: Economics</p> <p>Colloquial/literary Persian</p> <p>Simin Daneshvar, <i>The life of the alley</i></p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Fire temple</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>What do you know about Iran's geography?</p> <p>Simin Daneshvar and her works</p> <p>How is the economics status of Iran?</p>	<p>Chapter10</p>
<p>Week 12 Nov 20-22-24</p> <p>Lesson 8: What do commercial centres look like in your country?</p>	<p>Language use and usage</p> <p>Vocabulary and Structure Exercises</p> <p>Grammar: compound adjectives</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Text: Bazaar</p> <p>Advanced vocabulary building/Writing</p> <p>Media Persian: Trade and industry</p>	
<p>Week 13 Nov 27-29 Dec 1</p> <p>Lesson 8: What do commercial centres look like in your country?</p>	<p>Colloquial/literary Persian</p> <p>Sadeq Hedayat, <i>The darkroom</i></p> <p>Reading</p> <p>comprehension/Translation/Writing</p> <p>Let's know more: The folklore of the people of Iran</p> <p>Reading/Writing</p> <p>Let's get to know Iran better: Traditional marketplace</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Sadeq Hedayat and his works</p> <p>What do you know about Persian folklore?</p> <p>Describe a traditional market place.</p>	<p>Pop quiz: Lessons 1-8</p>

	<p>How is the traditional market place different from the modern one?</p> <p>Why is fire important in Zoroastrianism?</p> <p>What are some imports and exports of Iran?</p>	
<p>Week 14 Dec 4-6-7 Dec 7 for Labor Day Monday</p>	<p>*Oral presentations</p> <p>*Papers due on oral presentation day</p>	

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). »