



McGill

Institute of
Islamic Studies

Institut
d'études islamiques

Course and Contact Information

Course: Upper Intermediate Persian II, ISLA 544, 3 Credits

Semester: Winter 2020

Meeting time: MW 2:30-4:00

Location: MOR 328

Instructor

Name: Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi

Email: Pouneh.shabani-jadidi@mcgill.ca

Office Hour: W 10:30-11:30

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

In ISLA 544, you will read authentic texts about Persian culture and the 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.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course (ISLA 544), 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

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.

Description of Instructional Methods

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. Regular formative assessments and a midterm exam, during the semester, and a final exam, at the end of the semester, will be administered.

Average minimum amount of out-of-class or independent learning expected per week

In this 14-week semester, students are expected to spend a minimum of 100 minutes of out-of-class work for every 50 minutes of direct instruction. This 3 credit course will include 3 hours of direct instruction per week.

Course Schedule Winter 2020

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

Weeks	Textbook	Exams/events
Week 1 Jan 6-8 Lesson 1	Text: Football Poet: Nima Yushij	
Week 2 Jan 13-15 Lesson 2	Text: Darius the Great Poet: Forugh Farrokhzad	
Week 3 Jan 20-22 Lesson 3	Text: Marriage in Tribal Societies Poet: Fereydoon Moshiri	
Week 4 Jan 27-29 Lesson 4	Text: Marlik Hill Poet: Sohrab Sepehri	
Week 5 Feb 3-5 Lesson 5	Text: Tehran Poet: Simin Behbahani	
Week 6 Feb 10-12 Lesson 6	Text: Shirin and Farhad Poet: Nader Naderpour	
Week 7 Feb 17-19 Lesson 7	Text: Roads and Road Building Poet: Ahmad Shamlu	Feb 17 Midterm Lessons 1-6

Week 8 Feb 24-26 Lesson 8	Text: The Railroad Poet: Shahriar	
Week 9 March 2-6	STUDY BREAK	STUDY BREAK
Week 10 March 9-11 Lesson 9	Text: Famines of Iran Poet: Rudaki	
Week 11 March 16-18 Lesson 10	Text: Natural Heritage of Iran Poet: Ferdowsi	Norouz event: Wednesday March 18, 2020, 12:00-4:00 PM Actual Norouz: Thursday March 19, 2020, 23:49:37 PM
Week 12 March 23-25 Lesson 11	Text: The Bazaar Poet: Khayyam	
Week 13 March 30-April 1 Lesson 12	Text: <i>Nakhl Gardani</i> Poet: Attar	
Week 14 April 6-8	Oral presentations	Papers due

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Course organization

Students can expect to be informally assessed on a weekly basis with respect to their progress with grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Formal composition assessments will be administered regularly. Compositions will be about one page in length. Students will deliver formal and informal oral presentations during this class. Language can only be learned and absorbed if it is practiced on a regular basis, inside and outside the classroom. Students are encouraged to take every opportunity to practice their Persian language skills throughout their daily routine.

Attendance

This language course requires students to attend class regularly and punctually. Successful completion of this course requires students to actively participate in class and finish all assignments in a timely manner.

GRADING

A 85-100	A- 80-84	B+ 75-79
B 70-74	B- 65-69	C+ 60-64
C 55-59	D 50-54	F 0-49

FINAL GRADE

Assignment Contribution Towards Grade	
Assignment	Percentage/Points towards Final Grade
Participation, attendance, homework, compositions, presentations, papers, and exams	10% Participation/attendance/assignments
	20% Midterm exam
	20% Final presentation
	20% Final paper
	30% Final exam
Total:	100%

*** Important note: Being absent for the final exam leads to failing the course.**

DETAILS OF GRADING

Your course grade will be calculated as follows.

10% Attendance, active participation, and timely submission of all assignments

You will get the full mark if you do not miss more than 3 classes, have active participation in every class, and 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 it your assignment the following session after your absence.

20% Final oral presentations

You will be given a Persian book about Iran. You will present 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.

20% Final paper

On the day of your presentation, you must hand in your paper that is based on your book and your evaluation and criticism of it. The papers must be handwritten and 8-10 pages long. Your paper must contain: a) background and peripheral information about the book and/or the author, b) summary, and c) your critical evaluation based on the principles and theories of your field of study.

20% Midterm examination

The midterm examination of the fall semester is from lessons 1-6 inclusively.

30% Final examination

The final examination of the fall semester is from lessons 7-12 inclusively.

McGill Policy Statements

1) 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).

« 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/).»

2) 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.”

« 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).»

LEARNING RESOURCES

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/

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

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>