

Introduction to Contemporary Persian I – 41503D  
University of Southern California  
Department of Middle East Studies  
Class meets on: **MTWTh**, 12:00-12:50, THH 109

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian  
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Office Hours: MTW  
01:30 - 02:30 PM or by appointment  
THH 449C Phone: (213) 740-7440

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

MDES 120 is an elementary level course designed to develop your basic Persian language skills in listening, speaking, writing and reading comprehension. There is no prerequisite for this course. The objectives of the course are to help students:

- read texts of elementary level difficulty and communicate in Persian on a variety of topics and, therefore, understand spoken Persian in everyday situations.
- write simple sentences with reasonable accuracy.
- develop cultural awareness through additional readings, movies and class discussions.

Students should also be able to do the following main language **Tasks** and detailed **Pedagogical Tasks**:

- Talk about their family. Describe their home, room or apartment. Describe physical and personal characteristics of their friends and family members. Talk about their best friends, good or bad experiences, express their feelings and opinions and etc.
- Answer simple ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ questions, lists and phrases OR questions like “what is your hobby? What sport do you play? Do you like it here? How many brothers and sisters do you have? Where do they work? What do they do? Do you cook? What do you cook? Where do you live? How far is it from here? What do you have at your home? What time do you get up? When do you go to work? What kind of foods do you like? How old are you? What is your favorite ...?” and etc.

### ***Evaluation***

The final grade will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Active Participation	10%
Homework & assignments	15%
Class quizzes	15%
Mid Term	30%
Final Exam	30%

***Attendance Policy***

Regular and prompt attendance is mandatory and will be reflected in students' participation grade. Up to 4 absences, no penalty.

***Academic Integrity***

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>

***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities***

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

***Textbooks:***

- *Elementary Persian I & II*, Peyman Nojournian. The course pack will be provided by the instructor.
- *The Most Frequent Simple Verbs in Persian*, Peyman Nojournian. The course pack will be provided by the instructor.
- Web-based A/V instructional materials will be provided to the students by the instructor.

***Grading:***

MDES 120 will be graded based on the following scale:

A = 4.0	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3
A- = 3.7	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
B+ = 3.3	C- = 1.7	D- = 0.7
B = 3.0		F = 0.0
B- = 2.7		

MDES 120 (Elementary Persian I) – Tentative Task-based Syllabus - Fall 2011							
week	duration	textbook	functions and Tasks	themes	form	cultural component	assignments & quizzes
1	Aug 22- Aug 25	module 1, 2, and 3	<b>Task:</b> self-introducing <b>Pedagogical Tasks:</b> greeting, talk about your job, age, ask and answer simple yes/no questions, tell the time & date, colors, say and write numbers from 1-100. <b>Writing:</b> Persian phonetic transcription	Making an Iranian friend	Simple present, verb conjugations, imperative, interrogative, possessive pronouns, 150 new words.	Colloquial vs. formal variations in simple forms, greetings, /tæarof/. Watching movie episodes	Group assignment (sport names). Quiz 1
2	Aug 29- Sep 01	module 4 and 5	<b>Task:</b> describing people <b>PTs:</b> describe your family, make an appointment, make formal requests, talk about favorites, thank and apologize, describe physical appearance of people, answer open-ended questions, say and write numbers from 100-1000. <b>Writing:</b> Set 7 letters: {alef, dal, vav, re} and connecting letters {be, sin, mim, nun, he, ye, te}	Socializing and formalities	Plural, verb conjugations, simple vs. compound verbs, question words. 150 new words.	Polite requests using plural forms, Iranian sports and jobs. Watching movie episodes	Group assignment (cloth names), writing assignment (practice alphabet and writing).
3	Sep 05- Sep 08	module 6	<b>Task:</b> finding directions <b>PTs:</b> Find map directions, locate places in a map, completely introduce yourself <b>Writing:</b> letters {ze, she, ge, ke, le}	Iran geography & tourism	Compound verbs, verb “to be” and its variations, the verb “is located” /qærar dashtæn/. 70 new words.	Getting familiar with Iran, its geography, capital city, tourist attractions and ethnic groups. Watching a documentary on Iran	Group assignment (city names), writing assignment. Quiz 2
4	Sep 12- Sep 15	module 7	<b>Task:</b> filling out a personal information form <b>PTs:</b> write personal information, fill out a simple form. <b>Writing:</b> letters {pe, che, je, khe, fe, qaf}	Personal Forms	Incorporated compounds, simple present. 60 new words.	Watching movie episodes	Group assignment (family charts), writing assignment.
5	Sep 19- Sep 22	module 8	<b>Task:</b> describing places <b>PTs:</b> write an address in Persian, describe your home and describe the location of stuff in a place,	Finding a home or an address,	Informal vs. formal, learn 60 new vocabulary items and	How to describe people, negative and positive	Write a description of your apartment,

			describe personal characteristic of people. <b>Writing:</b> letters {he, sad ,zad, ta, za, eyn, qeyn }	planning a visit to Iran	one functional form.	adjectives, social norms. Watching a full featured movie	home or room. (handcraft names) Quiz 3
6	Sep 26- Sep 29	module 9 reading 1-2	<b>Task:</b> describing people's characteristics <b>Writing:</b> letters {zal, zhe, se} <b>Reading:</b> The Iranian history, and heritage. The first & second units of the reading book.	Lost & found	Question words, adverbs. 70 new words.	Applying for visa. Finding people from physical and personal descriptions.	Fill out real visa forms, and writing assignment.
7	Oct 03- Oct 06	module 10 and reading 3-4	<b>Task:</b> describe health conditions, expressing feelings <b>PTs:</b> a doctor visit, talking about health conditions, visiting a patient <b>Writing:</b> diacritics and /tænvin/ in Farsi. <b>Reading:</b> unit 3 & 4 of the reading book.	Looking for medical help	Compound verbs, writing sentences using words. 70 new words.	Handling medical emergencies, asking for help in medical emergencies. Watching movie episodes.	Group assignment (common decease names), writing assignment. Quiz 4
	Oct 10	Mid-term	Module 1 – 10 and reading unites 1-4				
8	Oct 11- Oct 13	module 11, reading 5-6	<b>Task:</b> routine daily works <b>PTs:</b> what you do, did or will do, express yourself, describe spatial location of things <b>Reading:</b> unit 5 & 6 of the reading book.	Daily routine	Future tense, past tense and present tense comparison. 50 new words. Locative prepositions.	Family gathering.	Group assignment, and writing assignment.
9	Oct 17- Oct 20	module 12, reading 7-8	<b>Task:</b> following instructions, navigating through maps <b>PTs:</b> finding an address, instructing people, navigating through a map <b>Reading:</b> unit 7 & 8 of the reading book.	A bit of Iranian history	Imperative form, plural and singular. Learn 70 new words.	Watching a documentary on Persepolis.	Group assignment (Iranian tourist attractions), reading assignment. Quiz 5.
10	Oct 24- Oct 27	module 13, reading 9-10	<b>Task:</b> making formal and informal requests <b>PTs:</b> purchasing goods and ask for discounts and prices, in metro station, airport, theatre, hotel post office <b>Reading:</b> unit 9 & 10 of the reading book.	Commerce and culture	Learn 70 new vocabulary items. Formal request form.	Watching movie episodes.	Group assignments (Transportation means), reading assignment

11	Oct 31- Nov 03	module 14, reading 11-12	<b>Task:</b> Describing a favorite dish <b>PTs:</b> how to describe a favorite dish?, ordering food, making food <b>Reading:</b> unit 11 & 12 of the reading book.	Foods and national dishes	conditional sentences, prepositions, adverbial forms	Watching documentary and food training movies.	Group assignments (food names), reading assignment
12	Nov 07- Nov 10	module 15, reading 13-14	<b>Task:</b> making reservations and appointments. <b>PTs:</b> Reserve a hotel room for vacation. Call a doctor office and make an appointment and etc. <b>Reading:</b> unit 13 & 14 of the reading book. Reading a sample classical poetry from Hafez and Khayyam.	Going to vacation. Persian classic poetry	subjunctive case, and modal/auxiliary verbs.	Vacation in Iranian culture. Persian classic literature and poetry.	Individual assignments through reading short stories.
13	Nov 14- Nov 17	module 16, reading 15-16	<b>Task:</b> Role-play. Writing a simple skid play script and acting in Persian. <b>PTs:</b> Role playing. Need to return an item to a shop and should convince the Persian shopkeeper to return it. <b>Reading:</b> unit 15 & 16 of the reading book. Reading a sample short story from JalAl e Ale ahmad.	Role-Play. Simple Persian literature. Short story.	Embedded sentences. Complex predicates and compound verbs	Watching a documentary on Iranian theatre and cinema. How Iranians bargain.	Group assignment through doing a skid play (doctor's office, dance class, etc.)
14	Nov 21- 22	module 17, reading 17	<b>Task:</b> Simple debate, and discussion in Persian. <b>PTs:</b> Talk about US foreign policy towards the Iranian government or middle east. Ask questions on the topic. <b>Reading:</b> unit 17 of the reading book. Reading a sample poetry from contemporary poets, SohrAb Sepehri and akhavAn e SAles.	Debate on political issues.	Compound verbs and conditional sentences.	Watch several movies on political issues.	Invited Persian speaker Q&A.
	Nov 23- 25	Break					
15	Nov 28- Dec 01	review all modules	All modules will be reviewed. Final exam will be explained.	Review	Review	Review	No assignment
	Dec 07- Dec 14	Final Exam	module 11-17 and reading 5-17				