

Introduction to Contemporary Persian I – 41501R
University of Southern California
Department of Middle East Studies
Class meets on: **MTWTh**, 09:00-09:50, VKC 103

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian
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Office Hours: MTWTh
01:00 - 02:00 PM or by appointment
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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. Language learning classes are highly interactive with a lot of class activities, assignments, etc. This means that regular attendance and active participation in the class discussions are needed to get the most out of the course. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining missing information. You can visit me during office hours for a recap.

Policy on Electronic Devices Used in Class

All cell phones, smart phones, etc should be turned off. If you have an emergency message you must send or receive during class, please excuse yourself, go outside class, and do it there.

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.

Textbook:

- *Elementary Persian I & II*, Peyman Nojournian. The course pack will be ordered for you in the print shop.
- 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:

Point	Percent	Letter Grade	Point	Percent	Letter Grade
4.0	93-100 %	A	2.0	73-77.99 %	C
3.7	90-92.99 %	A-	1.7	70-72.99 %	C-
3.3	87-89.99 %	B+	1.3	67-69.99 %	D+
3.0	83-86.99 %	B	1.0	63-66.99 %	D
2.7	80-82.99 %	B-	0.7	60-62.99 %	D-
2.3	77-79.99 %	C+	0.0	Below 60%	F

MDES 120 (Elementary Persian I) – Tentative Task-based Syllabus – Spring 2012							
week	duration	textbook	functions and Tasks	themes	form	cultural component	assignments & quizzes
1	Jan 09- Jan 12	module 1 & module 2	Task: self-introduction Pedagogical Tasks: greeting, talk about your job, age, ask and answer simple yes/no questions, tell the time & date, colors, say and write numbers from 1-20. Writing: Persian phonetic transcription (32 letters in alphabet, 28 sounds)	Making an Iranian friend	Simple present, verb (/æst/, and /e/), imperative, two pronouns, 100 new words.	Movie episode 1, Colloquial vs. formal variations in simple forms, and greetings	Module 1 and 2 assignments.
2	Jan 16- Jan 19	module 3	Task: self-introduction (extended) PTs: talk about your job and your friends, family, answer open-ended questions, thank and apologize, more on time and date, Persian calendar, say and write numbers from 20-100.	Learning about family and friends	Plural, verb conjugations, question words. 50 new words.	Polite requests using plural forms, Movie episode 2 and 3	Module 3 assignment.
3	Jan 23- Jan 26	module 4	Task: interview PTs: prepare a list of questions and interview your friend for a job for example. Say and write numbers from 100-1000. Writing: set7 letters {ælef, dal, vav, re, ...} (do not connect to the letters in their left side)	Interviewing friends	Other forms of the verb “to be” in Persian. Simple present tense. Compound verbs. 40 new words.	Movie episode 4, 5: job interview	Module 4 writing assignment. Interview quiz 1.
4	Jan 30- Feb 02						
5	Feb 06- Feb 09	module 5	Task: shopping PTs: buying and selling, asking for price, trying clothes, colors, cloth names, knowing about your body. Say and write numbers from 1000-1,000,000,000. Writing: connecting letters {be, sin, mim ,nun , he, ye, te}	Shopping for clothes	Question forms, imperative. Number forms. 90 new words	Movie episode 6 and 7: working environment, women vs. men’s clothes and /hejab/ (veil) in Iran	Module 5 writing assignment. In-class shopping role-play. Quiz 2 on spelling.
6	Feb 13- Feb 16						
7	Feb 20- Feb 23	module 6	Task: finding directions PTs: Find map directions, locate places in a map Writing: connecting letters {shin, kaf, gaf, lam} and set 7 {ze}	Iran’s geography & tourism	Simple present tense continues. 40 new words.	Iran’s geography, tourist attractions and ethnic groups. Movie episode 8 and 9: leaning Persian idioms	Module 6 writing assignment. Quiz 3 on spelling.
8	Feb 27- Mar 01						

9	Mar 05- Mar 08	module 7	Task: writing a short autobiography PTs: use a short personal form to write a short biography. Write about your family, work, and home. Synthesize single information into a cohesive autobiography paragraph. Writing: letters {pe, jim, che, khe, fe, qaf}	Autobiography	Simple sentence, using connectors such as “/va/ (and)”. Possessive pronouns. 70 new words.	Movie episode 10, knowing about Iranian sports	Module 7 writing assignment. Quiz 4 on spelling.
10	Mar 12- Mar 15	Spring break					
11	Mar 19- Mar 22	module 8	Task: describe your apartment/home PTs: learn to write your address in Persian, an apartment plot, kitchen, living room, bedrooms, etc. Synthesize small components into a full description of a home. Writing: letters {he, sad, zad, ta, za, eyn, qeyn}	Describe an apartment	Verbs conjugations, match answers and questions, question words. Locative adverbs. 60 new words.	Movie episode 11 and 12, know about Persian new year “Norooz”	Module 8 writing and Quiz 5 on spelling.
12	Mar 26- Mar 29						
13	April 02- April 05	module 9	Task: describe physical appearance and characteristics of people PTs: physical information, personal information, personal characteristics, etc. Writing: letters {zal, zhe, se}	Describe friends characteristics	Interrogative form, formal & informal styles. 70 new words.	Last movie episode 13	Module 9 writing assignment and quiz 6 on spelling.
14	Apr 09- Apr 12						
15	Apr 16- Apr 19	Reading 1,2 and 3	Reading: units 1 to 3 will be covered. Recycling of learned vocabulary and grammar Writing: Arabic diacritics {[hamze], [tanvin]}	Travel abroad	prepositions, country names, Ezafe in Persian, 60 new words	Rageh Omer Documentary part 1: A journey to Tehran	Reading assignments, quiz 7
16	Apr 23- Apr 26	Reading 4, 5, 6 review modules	Reading: units 4 to 6 will be covered. Recycling of learned vocabulary and grammar	Daily routine	adverbs and adjectives, verb conjugation review	Rageh Omer Documentary part 2: A journey to Tehran	Reading assignments, no quiz
	May 02- May 09	Final Exams					