

Introduction to Contemporary Persian II – 41502R  
University of Southern California  
Middle East Studies Program  
Class meets on: **MTWTh**, 11:00-11:50, 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 150 continues elementary Persian I and is designed to further develop your basic Persian language skills in listening, speaking, writing and reading comprehension. The objectives of MDES 150 are to help students to:

- read texts of elementary II level difficulty  
communicate and converse in Persian on a variety of topics  
ask and answer the following open ended questions which is built upon real-life tasks of description, narration, analysis and report:

چه ورزشی/کاری/رشته‌ی تحصیلی، را دوست دارید؟

چگونه خانواده‌ی خود را توصیف می‌کنید (چندتا خواهر و برادر، شغل آنها، و غیره)؟

چطور از خانه سر کار یا دانشگاه می‌روید (با تاکسی، اتوبوس، پیاده...)?

چگونه روز خود را می‌گذرانید (از وقتی از خواب بیدار می‌شوید تا شب که به خانه برمی‌گردید)؟

چگونه خانه یا آپارتمان خود را توصیف می‌کنید (چند اتاق، آشپزخانه، حمام،....)?

چه تجربه خوب یا بدی در زندگی داشته‌اید؟

چگونه دوستانی دارید (توصیف فیزیکی و شخصیتی)?

- write simple accurate sentences and short paragraphs.
- develop cultural awareness through additional readings, movies and class discussions.

### 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.

***Textbooks:***

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

***Grading:***

MDES 150 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 150 (Elementary Persian II) – Tentative Task-based Syllabus – Spring 2012							
week	duration	textbook	functions and Tasks	themes	form	cultural component	assignments & quizzes
1	Jan 09- Jan 12	module 10	<b>Task:</b> describe health conditions, expressing feelings, and seeking medical help <b>PTs:</b> a doctor visit, talking about health conditions, visiting a patient <b>Reading:</b> unit 3 & 4 of the reading book.	Seeking medical help	Compound verbs, connecting simple sentences. Forming paragraph. 50 new words.	Handling medical emergencies, asking for help. Movie episodes 14.	Module 10 assignments.
2	Jan 16- Jan 19	module 11	<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	Comparing future, past and present tenses. 50 new words.	Family gathering. Movie episode 15.	Module 11 assignment.
3	Jan 23- Jan 26	module 12	<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 ancient history of Iranian, Persepolis	Imperative form, plural and singular, directions. 70 new words.	Documentary on Persepolis.	Module 12 assignment. Quiz 1.
4	Jan 30- Feb 02						
5	Feb 06- Feb 09	module 13	<b>Task:</b> Shopping and business affairs <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	Formal request form. 70 new words.	Movie episode 16.	Module 13 assignment. In-class shopping role-play. Quiz 2.
6	Feb 13- Feb 16						
7	Feb 20- Feb 23	module 14	<b>Task:</b> Describing a favorite event (food, sport, memory, etc.) <b>PTs:</b> how to describe a favorite thing? <b>Reading:</b> unit 11 & 12 of the reading book.	Foods, sports, and especial events	conditional sentences, prepositions, adverbial forms	Movie episode 17/documentary on cooking.	Module 14 assignment.
8	Feb 27- Mar 01						
9	Mar 05- Mar 08	module 15	<b>Task:</b> making reservations and appointments. <b>PTs:</b> Reserve a hotel room for vacation. Call a	Going to vacation.	Subjunctive case, and	Movie episode 18. Vacation in Iranian	Module 15 assignment.

10	Mar 12- Mar 15	Spring break	doctor office and make an appointment and etc. <b>Reading:</b> unit 13 & 14 of the reading book. Reading sample classic poetry from Hafez and Khayyam.	Persian classic poetry	modal/auxiliary verbs.	culture. Persian classic literature and poetry.	Quiz 3.
11	Mar 19- Mar 22	module 16	<b>Task:</b> Project: Writing a simple skid play script and acting in Persian <b>PTs:</b> Role playing. Need to return an item to a shop and convince the Persian shopkeeper to accept the returned item. <b>Reading:</b> unit 15 & 16 of the reading book. Reading sample contemporary Persian short story.	Role-Play. Persian short stories	Embedded sentences. Complex predicates and compound verbs	Documentary on Iranian new year “Norooz”. Visiting Norooz markets.	Module 16 assignment.
12	Mar 26- Mar 29						
13	April 02- April 05	module 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 sample poetry from contemporary poets, SohrAb Sepehri and akhavAn e SAles.	Debate	Compound verbs and conditional sentences.	Documentaries on Iranian revolution and political issues.	Module 17 assignment. Quiz 4.
14	Apr 09- Apr 12						
15	Apr 16- Apr 19	Module 18	<b>Task:</b> Write an informal letter. PTs: connect simple sentences to form more complex ideas. Write a paragraph. Write a full letter to your parents. Review: All modules will also be reviewed. Final exam will be explained and quiz 5 will be taken.	A letter to your parents	Subjunctive. Compound verbs. Informal/formal letter style.	Connecting with family. Movie episode 19-20.	Quiz 5 (exam model).
16	Apr 23- Apr 26						
_____	May 02- May 09	Final Exams	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____