Introduction to Contemporary Persian IV – 41511R
University of Southern California
Middle East Studies Program
Class meets on: **MTWTh**, 12:00-12:50, VKC 103

Instructor: Peyman Nojoumian
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Office Hours: MTWTh
01:00 - 02:00 PM or by appointment
THH 449C Phone: (213) 740-2310

***Course Description and Objectives**:*

MDES 250 is an Intermediate II Persian course designed to further develop listening, speaking, writing and reading comprehension skills on a cultural context. This semester, I will teach my newly developed "Intermediate Business Persian" course sponsored by the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER). The course employs a task-based methodology and utilizes the following real-life tasks in a business cultural context:

- Reading/listening to media and finding specific information.
- Listening/Reading and discerning facts from opinions
- Listening/Reading and providing analysis or expressing personal opinion on a topic currently discussed in the media
- Listening/Reading for sorting information, categorizing, similarities and differences or finding patterns
- Writing simple paragraphs and reports
- Presenting ideas and information in the form of narration and descriptions

The course includes eight interactive modules and incorporates business contents that are appropriate for intermediate language learners.

Evaluation

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

Participation	10%
Assignments	10%
Portfolio Presentation	20%
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:

- *Intermediate Business Persian,* Sponsored by CIBER, Peyman Nojoumian. The course pack will be provided by the instructor.
- *The Most Frequent Simple Verbs in Persian,* Peyman Nojoumian. 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 250 (Intermediate Persian II) – Tentative Task-based Syllabus – Spring 2012							
week	**duration**	**textbook**	**functions and Tasks**	**themes**	**form**	**cultural component**	**assignments & projects**
1	Jan 09-Jan 12	module 1	**Task**: Reading/listening to media and finding specific information (time, place, and names). **Pedagogical Tasks**: Read an article and answer questions, match picture clues with specific information, listen to a conversation and fill out a scaffolded chart of information. read a restaurant menu and find specific information	Banking, shopping and dinning out	Money unit, numbers, banking terms, infinitive, noun phrase, collocations, 35 new words	Norooz (New Year) shopping, dinning in a traditional restaurant, and Persian food. Movie 1	Module 1 assignments. Project 1: Persian foods
2	Jan **16**-Jan 19						
3	Jan 23-Jan 26	module 2	**Task**: Reading/listening to media and finding specific information (5Ws, topic, and quantities). **PT**s: Listen to an article and answer questions, match picture ads with specific information, listen to a text and find specific information. Read a text and answer questions, find specific information in a map.	Post office. The Iranian economy	Combine sentences to form complex structures, superlative adjective, 65 new words.	Iran economy, geopolitics, imports and exports. Persian rug. Movie 2	Module 2 assignments. Project 2: Iranian exports
4	Jan 30-Feb 02						
5	Feb 06-Feb 09	module 3	**Task**: Listening/Reading for sorting information, categorizing, or finding patterns **PT**s: Listen to a conversation and categorize the information. Read a text and extract information required to fill a form. Learn unit counters and sort goods.	Hotel reservation, shopping foods and fruits	Sentence connectors, unit counters, locative prepositions.150 new words	Iranian tourism and shopping food. Movie 3	Module 3 assignments. Project 3: Persian unit counters
6	Feb 13-Feb 16						
7	Feb **20**-Feb 23 Mid-term	module 4	**Task**: Listening/Reading and providing analysis or expressing personal opinion on a topic currently discussed in the media **PT**s: Read an article and find the topic, read the article again and provide analysis, listen to an interview and complete a chart then analyze it. Watch a movie and find the topic, analyze it and express your opinion about it.	Iranian economy, poverty and investment	Phrasal verbs, idioms, 100 new words, paragraph cohesive devices (references).	Iranian economy, poverty, minimum wage, and investment. Movie 4	Module 4 assignments. Project 4: Read a news article, present it
8	Feb 27-Mar 01						

9	Mar 05-Mar 08	module 5	**Task**: Listening/Reading an article and translating it. Read and analyze information. Synthesize information to form sentences **PT**s: Listen to an article and translate its summary. Read a text and analyze the information by answering to questions. Sort information to form sentences.	Economic issues, inflation, etc.	Definite and indefinite articles in translation, simple and complex sentences. 100 new words	Economic issues in Iran. Movie 5	Module 5 assignments. Project 5: Caricatures
10	Mar 12-Mar 15	Spring break					
11	Mar 19-Mar 22	module 6	**Tasks**: Listening/Reading and discerning facts from opinions **PTs**: Read a text and analyze it, what are the facts, what are the opinions, what the pictures tell us about, what are the causes and effects. Read a text and match sentences highlighting cause and effects, facts and opinions.	Economic embargos. US-Iran politico-economic relation	Connecting paragraphs. 100 new words	Iranian constitution, oil exports. Movie 6	Module 6 assignments. Project 6: Find an article that shows facts and opinions, analyze and present it
12	Mar 26-Mar 29						
13	April 02-April 05	module 7	**Tasks**: Listening/Reading to find similarities and differences or finding patterns. Synthesize information and write a report. **PTs**: Read two articles on the same topic and find similar ideas, find differences. Combine findings into a report.	Economic reforms in Iran	Sentence and paragraph connectors. 100 new words	Trade and business culture. Movie 7	Module 7 assignments. Project 7: Find a topic in several newspapers and contrast them
14	Apr 09-Apr 12						
15	Apr 16-Apr 19	Portfolio reports	Reviewing modules and reporting on portfolios (project 1 to 7)	Reviews	Reviews	Reviews	Portfolio Presentations
16	Apr 23-Apr 26						
	May 02-May 09	Final Exams					