

Introduction to Contemporary Persian II – 41509R
University of Southern California
Middle East Studies Program
Class meets on: **MTWTh**, 10:00-10:50, VKC 103
Web: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/persian>

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian
Email: nojournia@usc.edu
Office Hours: MTWTh
01:00 - 02:00 PM or by appointment
THH 449C Phone: (213) 740-2310

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. This class builds upon a communicative and blended learning approach. Based on the Task-based Language Teaching (TBLT) methodology, students will be engaged in real-life language tasks and do online projects through the Pixton portal to incorporate learned tasks into their interpersonal skills. Other objectives of MDES 150 are to help students to:

- read texts of elementary II level difficulty
communicate and converse in Persian and do language tasks on a variety of topics
ask and answer the following open-ended questions which is built upon real-life tasks of description, narration, and comparison:
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 and 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% (full grade only for no unexcused absence)
Pixton Project / Assignments	15% (students will work on a Persian comic strip project)
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. Being late for 10 minutes would also constitute an absence. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining missing information from your instructor or other students.

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 at the bookstore.
- *The Most Frequent Simple Verbs in Persian*, Peyman Nojournian. The course pack will be ordered for you.
- Please sign in to your account in <http://www.pixton.com/> and join the DAZFA project.

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
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MDES 150 (Elementary Persian II) – Tentative Task-based Syllabus – Fall 2012

week	duration	textbook	functions and Tasks	themes	form	cultural component	assignments & quizzes
1	Aug 27- Aug 31	module 10	Task: describe health conditions, express feelings Pedagogical Tasks (PTs): pay a doctor visit, talk about health conditions, visit a patient	Looking for medical help	Compound verbs, writing sentences using words. 70 new words.	Handling medical emergencies, asking for help in a medical emergency. Movie episode 1 & 2.	Module 10 assignments.
2	Sep 03- Sep 07	module 11	Task: describe daily routines PTs: what you do, did or will do, express yourself, describe spatial location of things Reading: unit 1 & 2 of the reading book.	Daily routine	Future tense, past tense and present tense comparison. 50 new words. Locative prepositions.	Family gathering. Movie episode 3 & 4.	Module 11 assignment. Quiz 1
3	Sep 10- Sep 14	module 12	Task: follow instructions, navigate through maps PTs: find an address, instruct people, navigate through a map Reading: unit 3 & 4 of the reading book.	A bit of Iranian history	Imperative form, plural and singular. Learn 70 new words.	Watching a documentary on Persepolis.	Module 12 assignment. Quiz 2.
4	Sep 17- Sep 21						
5	Sep 24- Sep 28	module 13	Task: narrate (past tense) PTs: purchase goods and ask for discounts. Narrate a story about your last trip. Exit Task: Create a Pixton narration project.	Tourism & Iranian cities	Learn 70 new vocabulary items. Formal request form. Subjunctive and the past tense.	Movie episode 5 & 6.	Module 13 assignment. Pixton comic narration. Quiz 3.
6	Oct 01- Oct 05						
7	Oct 08- Oct 12	module 14	Task: describe a favorite dish PTs: how to describe a favorite dish, order food, or make food?	Foods and national dishes	conditional sentences, prepositions,	Documentary on food.	Module 14 assignment. Quiz 4.
8	Oct 15- Oct 19						

9	Oct 22- Oct 26	module 15	Task: make a reservation or an appointment. PTs: reserve a hotel room for vacation. Call a doctor office and make an appointment and etc. Reading: unit 5 & 6 of the reading book.	Vacation, Persian classic poetry	Subjunctive case, and modal / auxiliary verbs.	Vacation in Iranian culture. Persian classic literature and poetry.	Module 15 assignment. Quiz 5.
10	Oct 29- Nov 02						
11	Nov 05- Nov 09	module 16	Task: write a simple skid play script and act it in Persian. PTs: role-play. Need to return an item to a shop and should convince the Persian shopkeeper to return it. Exit Task: Create a Pixton comic strip online for this module. Record and act your play.	Role-Play. Simple Persian literature. Short story.	Embedded sentences. Complex predicates and compound verbs	Watching a documentary on Iranian theatre and cinema.	Module 16 assignment. Quiz 6.
12	Nov 12- Nov 16						
13	Nov 19- Nov 20	module 17	Task: debate, and engage in discussions. PTs: talk about US foreign policy towards the Iranian government or Middle East. Do the online assessments through the Blackboard. Reading: read sample poetry from contemporary & classical poets, SohrAb Sepehri, akhavAn e SAles, Rumi, and Hafez.	Debate	Compound verbs and conditional sentences.	Movie episode 7 & 8.	Module 17 assignment. Quiz 7.
Break	Nov 21- Nov 23						
14	Nov 26- Nov 30						
15	Dec 03- Dec 07	Presentation	Exit Task: Pixton Projects will be rated and the best project will be published on the Internet.	Review	Review of all tasks	Movie episode 9 & 10.	Project presentations.
	Dec 12- Dec 19	Final Exam	Wednesday, December 12 at 12-1 pm				