

Persian III – MDES 220  
University of Southern California  
Middle East Studies Program  
Class meets at VKC 103, **M-Th**, 12:00-12:50

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian  
email: nojournia@usc.edu  
Office Hours: M-Th  
1:00 - 2:00 PM or by appointment  
THH 499C Phone: (213) 740-2310

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

MDES 220 is a high intermediate level course designed to develop Persian language skills in listening, speaking, writing and reading comprehension. The objectives of the course are to help students:

- read texts of high intermediate level difficulty and communicate in Persian on a variety of topics
- write cohesive paragraphs
- develop cultural awareness through additional readings, movies and class discussions
- Students should also be able to do the following language tasks in Persian:
  - Be proficient in describing an event,
  - Be able to identify important information in discourse (what, who, where, when, and why) [5Ws]
  - Be able to find similarities and differences and analyze discourse
  - Be able to write a gist and synthesize information to build a cohesive and logical summary or report in Persian

### ***Evaluation***

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

Participation	10%
Assignments	10% (Weekly assignments include listening to audio books and summarizing 2-3 pages)
Presentation	20% (Choose a topic of your choice and prepare minimum 10 slides to present it in 20 minutes after fall break)
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 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, laptops and etc. should be turned off during the class. 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:**

- *Persian III*, Peyman Nojournian. The course pack will be provided by the instructor.
- Basic Persian Grammar, Peyman Nojournian. This 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 220 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

<b>Persian III – 4 Credit Hours – Tentative Syllabus &amp; Schedule - Fall 2012</b>							
<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Textbook<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Functions or Tasks &amp; Quizzes</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Focus on (form)</b>	<b>Cultural Component</b>	<b>Sample &amp; Assignments</b>
1 & 2	Aug 27- Sep 07	<b>Module 1</b> (25 pages, 2 movies, 8 audio files).	<b>Target task:</b> Identifying important information in a text, audio report, and movie. <b>Task type:</b> Identifying important information (What, Where, When, Who, Why) 5Ws	A comprehensive introduction to principles of the Islam. Shiite and Sunni and other branches.	Simple past, present and future forms are incorporated in the text.	Islam as it is practiced in Iran, and middle eastern countries.	Read the text and underline the six important points. Watch a short movie and fill in the scaffold chart containing the six important points.
3 & 4	Sep 10- Sep 21	Module 1 continues	Reviewing week 1 & 2. Tasks that are more complex involve two to three speakers and longer conversations.	History of Islam and the life of the prophet Mohammed.	Conversation forms will be dealt with during the movie show. Reviewing simple past and present tenses in context.	A quick look at the history of Islam and the status of Muslims in 7 <sup>th</sup> century.	Listen to an interview or an article, and match the two phrases in two columns. One column is facts and the other incorporates those facts as important information.
5 & 6	Sep 24- Oct 04	<b>Module 2</b> (18 pages, 10 audio files, 2 movies)	<b>Target task:</b> Write a gist on social issues in Iran, e.g. Hejab <b>Task type:</b> Finding similarities and differences in a text or audio report and write a gist or short summary.	Looking at current social issues in Iran regarding the women rights, Hejab, and current affairs	Conversation, interview and news article forms are incorporated to this task type.	Discussion of women rights in Iran. What is Hejab (veil)?	Listen to a news article and find the main topic. Listen to two different interviews and find similarities and differences.
	Oct 04	Mid-term	Mid-term				
7 & 8	Oct 08- Oct 19	<b>Module 3</b> (10 pages, 2 audio files, 1 short movie)	<b>Target task:</b> Summarize a news article on the Islamic revolution <b>Task type:</b> Identifying important information, cause and effects, and	Look at the Iranian revolution in 1979 and the status of current affairs 30 years	Cause and effect forms. Subordinators are emphasized.	Iranian life before and after the Islamic revolution.	Underline important information in a news article of two paragraphs. Write the gist of each paragraph. Connect the two paragraph using

<sup>1</sup> Textbook will be provided to students by the instructor

			reasons. Analyze texts and synthesize a cohesive and logical summary.	after the revolution.			subordinators and grammatical connectors.
9 & 10	Oct 22- Nov 02	Module 3 continues	Same tasks as above with higher degree of the language complexity.	Same as above.	Similar forms in redundant information.	Same as above	Listen to a lecture by Imam Khomeini. Complete the important information partly given in charts. Write a short summary of that speech.
11 & 12	Nov 05 Nov 16	<b>Module 4</b> (7 pages, 2 audio files and 1 short movie)	<b>Target task:</b> Write a summary of a movie, discuss the movie; find characters, settings and the plot. Compare movies. <b>Task type:</b> How to write a critique and summary of a play or movie. Comparison.	Iranian Culture and Cinema	Combining simple paragraphs to a cohesive and logical summary using connectors	Iranian culture through cinema.	Watch movies from before and after the Islamic revolution. Compare them, find similarities and differences and write summaries for each movie you watch.
13 & 14	Nov 19 Nov 30	Module 4 continues	Same as above	Same as above	Writing simple paragraphs based on the similar and different points found during the displays.	Looking at cinema before and after the Islamic revolution	Apart from watching movies and doing weekly assignments, we will have a guest speaker to do a Q&A in the class
	Nov 21 Nov 24	<b>Break</b>	No Class				
15	Dec 03- Dec 07	Presentations	Each student presents a topic of his/her choice in 10 Power Point slides during 20 minutes. Other students should listen, write notes and ask questions.	Topics include Iran's current affairs, social status, culture and cinema.	Colloquial forms are practiced. Students are encouraged to interact during the presentations.	Presentation in Persian.	Presentations are Exit Tasks aimed at practicing synthesis of information into cohesive and logical piece of spoken or written language.
	Dec 14	<b>Final Exam</b>					