

MDES 220 - Persian III – 41516R
University of Southern California
Middle East Studies Program
Class meets on: **MTWTh**, 12:00-12:50, VKC 107
Web: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/persian>

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

Course Description and Objectives

MDES 220 is an intermediate level course designed to develop oral fluency, communicative skills, written expression, and reading comprehension. The objectives of the course are to help students:

- read texts of intermediate level difficulty and communicate in Persian on a variety of topics and, therefore, understand spoken Persian in everyday situations
- write intermediate narrative style paragraphs coherently and with reasonable accuracy
- develop cultural awareness through additional readings, movies and class discussions
- Communicate and converse in Persian and be able to accomplish the following tasks:
 - Identifying 5Ws (What, Where, When, Who, and Why)
 - Talking about daily routine, work, and study
 - Describing home, office, school, work place, and life
 - Asking and answering open-ended questions
 - Convincing other people

Evaluation

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

Participation	10%
Homework & Quiz	10%
Presentation	20%: Minimum 6 slides. Should choose the topic before the recess
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

- *Intermediate Persian I*, Peyman Nojournian. The course pack will be ordered for you at the bookstore.

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

MDES 220 (Intermediate Persian) – Tentative Task-based Syllabus							
week	duration	textbook	functions and Tasks	themes	form	cultural component	assignments & quizzes
1 & 2	Jan 14-Jan 25	Module 1. Reading 1 & 2	Identifying 5Ws (what, where, when, who, and why), scaffold use of information, categorization of information	Food, restaurant, home	Imperative, simple present	Movie episode 1 & 2 relevant to the theme of the module.	Second week: Assignment 1.
3 & 4	Jan 28-Feb 08	Module 2. Reading 3 & 4	Finding directions in a map, describing the directions. Asking simple yes/no questions.	Geography	Negative and interrogative sentences	Dance in Iran, Iranian ethnic groups. Movie episode 3 & 4.	Third week: Quiz 1. Assignment 2.
5 & 6	Feb 11-Feb 22	Module 3. Reading 5 & 6	Tell me about yourself, your job, studies, family, address, favorites, hobbies, sports, and your future plans.	School, university, workplace	Present and future tense.	Literature, famous Iranian Poets. Movie episode 5.	Sixth week: Quiz 2. Assignment 3.
7 & 8	Feb 25-Mar 08	Module 4. Reading 7 & 8	Describe your home, rooms, university, and apartments. Write simple coherent paragraphs that describe your home.	University, home, apartment	Complex question forms	Movie episode 6 & 7. Housing in Iran. Social issues in Iran.	Mar 07 mid-term
9 & 10 (recess)	Mar 11-Mar 22	Module 5. Reading 9 & 10	Asking open-ended questions. Asking for help. Answering police and inspector officers.	Airport, passport control	Formal vs. informal	Movie episode 8 & 9. Traveling to Iran. Tourism in Iran.	Quiz 3. Assignment 4.
11 & 12	Mar 25-Apr 05	Module 6. Reading 11 & 12	Filling a form. Introducing yourself. Making reservation and appointments	Hotel, and shopping.	Unit counters, polite requests. Past tense.	Movie "Turtles Can Fly", Part I and II discussion	Assignment 5.
13 & 14	Apr 08-Apr 19	Module 7. Reading 15	Reading a simple text and writing a short gist or summary of it.	Q & A.	Paragraph connectors.	Documentary movie	Assignment 6.
15 & 16	Apr 22-May 03	Presentations	Presenting and expressing ideas.	Topics are chosen by students	Variety of grammatical structures	Students present their research in class in min 6 slides	No Assignment
		Final Exam	Friday May 10, 11 am to 12 pm				