

Persian III - MDES 220 - Section 41516R
Class meets on: MTWTh, 10:00-10:50 am
Class location: THH 109
Course web: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/persian>

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian
Office: THH 449
Office hours: 1-2pm, M-Th, by appointment
Phone: (213) 740-2310
Email: nojournia@usc.edu

Course Description & Learning Objectives:

Persian III (MDES 220) is a high 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 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 important information, Comparing and contrasting objects and ideas, Handling a complicated situation, Writing summaries and short reports, Expressing and supporting their ideas

This course continues the path to the Minor degree in Iranian Studies. For doing the Minor, two years of Persian language (4 semesters) is required for students who are novice in Persian. Students have also the possibility to take placement exam in Persian at any time during the program to skip to advance courses if passed.

Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated according to the following grading breakdown:

Item	Grade %	Notes
Active Participation	10	Full grade for no unexcused absence. Absences are excused only by Dean or Health Center
Assignment & Quiz	10	Assignments have been embedded to the textbook. Class quizzes are announced in class.
Presentation	20	Minimum 6 slides. Students should choose the topic before the recess.
Mid-Term Exam	30	March 7, 2104
Final Exam	30	May 7, 2014 - TBA
Total	100	

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct: Plagiarism - presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems: A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

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. Absent students are responsible for obtaining missing information from instructor or other students.

Policy on Usage of Electronic Devices & Food in Class

All electronic devices including cell phones, smart phones, laptops and etc. should be turned off in class. Please refrain from eating food and drinking soda in class in observation of others.

Textbook

- *Intermediate Persian*, Peyman Nojournian. The textbook will be ordered for you at the book store.
- Web-based A/V instructional materials will be provided to the students by the instructor.

Grading

Persian-III (MDES 220) will be graded based on the following scales:

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

Persian III (MDES 220) - Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Duration	Modules	Tasks	Themes	Forms	Cultural Component	Assignments
1 & 2	Jan 13- Jan 24	Module 15	Identifying important information. Categorizing information. Describing a favorite dish	Food & Restaurant	Imperative, present subjunctive	Movie episode 1 & 2 relevant to the theme of the module	Module 15 assignments
3 & 4	Jan 27- Feb 07	Module 16	Comparing objects, talking about similarities and differences	New Year	Simple present, subjunctive	New Iranian year “Nowruz”, before the eve festivities	Module 16 assignments
5 & 6	Feb 10- Feb 21	Module 17	Comparing events and traditions, agree or disagree with an opinion	Iranian Wedding	Simple present & connectors.	Iranian wedding traditions	Module 17 assignments
7 & 8	Feb 24- Mar 07	Module 18	Handling a complicated situation. Accept or reject requests	Social Culture	Question & request forms	Social issues and handling complicated situations	Mar 07 mid-term
9 & 10 (recess)	Mar 10- Mar 28	Module 19	Handling a complicated situation. Filing a complaint.	Social Culture	Formal vs. informal	Student life.	Module 19 assignments
11 & 12	Mar 24- Apr 04	Module 20	Writing summaries and reports.	Literature, Short Stories	Controlling aspect and tense.	Persian literature, poetry and simple prose.	Module 20 assignments
13 & 14	Apr 07- Apr 18	Module 21	Expressing and supporting ideas.	Iranian Media	Cohesive devices, & discourse	Iranian media and cinema. Movie screening.	Module 21 assignments
15 & 16	Apr 21- May 02	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					