

Persian IV – MDES 250 – 41525R
University of Southern California
Middle East Studies Program
Class meets MTWTh, 9:00-9:50 am, WPH 400
<http://dornsife.usc.edu/persian>

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

Course Objectives:

MDES 250 is a high intermediate course designed to develop Persian language proficiency in listening, speaking, writing and reading. 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 in paragraph length discourse
- Develop cultural awareness through additional readings, movies and class discussions
- Students should also be able to do the following language tasks in Persian:
 - Describe an event or an object in details
 - Identify important information in discourse and write short summaries
 - Find similarities and differences between ideas and express their own idea
 - Narrate an event in details in all time frames

This course continues the path to Minor in Iranian Studies. The Minor requires novice students to do two years (4 semesters) of Persian language courses as pre-requisites for advanced Persian. Students are also able to take the placement exam at any time during the program and skip to the advanced level if eligible. Currently, advanced Persian courses (MDES-320 & MDES-350) count towards the Minor.

The Minor degree requires doing a total of four courses.

Evaluation

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

Participation	10%
Assignments	10%
Presentation	20% [Choose a topic & prepare minimum 10 PowerPoint slides in Persian]
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. Please refrain from **eating food and drink soda** in observation of others.

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 IV*, Peyman Nojournian. The course pack will be ordered for you at the bookstore.
- Web-based A/V instructional materials will be provided to the students by the instructor.

Grading:

MDES 250 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

Persian IV – Tentative Syllabus							
Week	Dates	Textbook	Task Types	Themes	Forms	Cultural Component	Assignments
1&2	Aug 25-Sep 05	Module 1 (25 pages, 2 movies, 8 audio files).	Task type: Identifying important information in a text, audio report, and movie	An introduction to principles of the Islam	Simple past, present and future forms	Islam as it is practiced in Iran, and Middle East	Module 1 assignments.
3&4	Sep 08-Sep 19	Module 1 continues	Reviewing week 1 & 2. Tasks that are more complex involve two to three speakers and longer conversations	History of Islam and life of prophet Mohammed	Conversational forms	History of Islam and the status of Muslims in 7 th century	Module 1 assignments
5&6	Sep 22-Oct 02	Module 2 (18 pages, 10 audio files, 2 movies)	Task type: Finding similarities & differences and write a gist or short summary	Social issues in Iran, women and minorities	Descriptive forms	Women rights in Iran	Module 2 assignments
7&8	Oct 06-Oct 17	Module 3 (10 pages, 2 audio files, 1 movie)	Task type: Identifying important information, cause and effects, and reasons. Analyze and summarize	Iranian revolution	Cause and effect forms	Iranian life before and after the Islamic revolution	Module 3 assignments
9&11	Oct 20-Oct 30	Module 3 continues	Same tasks as above with higher degree of the language complexity.	Iranian revolution	Similar forms and redundant information	Same as above	Module 3 assignments
11&12	Nov 03-Nov 14	Module 4 (7 pages, 2 audio files and 1 movie)	Task type: Write a summary of a movie, discuss the movie; find characters, settings and the plot and analyze it	Iranian Culture and Cinema	Simple paragraph to a cohesive summary	Iranian culture through cinema	Module 4 assignments
13&14	Nov 17-Nov 25	Module 4 continues	Same as above	Same as above	Discourse	Looking at cinema before and after Islamic revolution	Module 4 assignments
15	Dec 01-Dec 05	Presentations	Students present their topics in 20 minutes.	Iran's current affairs	Presentation.	Presentation in Persian.	Presentations
		Final Exam	Friday, December 12 – 12-12:50 pm	*Students with exam conflicts should contact instructor a week before the final.			