

Persian-I (IRAN 120) - Section 41502D
Class meets on: MTWTh, 1:00-1:50 PM
Class location: VKC 104
Course web: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes>

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian
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Course Description

Persian-I (IRAN 120) is an elementary level course designed to develop your basic Persian language skills in listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Students will also develop cultural awareness through class discussions. There is no prerequisite for this course.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, students who actively participate and complete all assigned work will be able to:

- Communicate and exchange information in Persian on familiar topics using memorized phrases and short sentences
- Recognize familiar spoken phrases and simple sentences and use them to respond to questions and follow simple instructions
- Identify Persian script and write memorized phrases and some simple sentences on familiar topics
- Recognize and read words, phrases and simple sentences on familiar topics, and extract information from reading material
- Demonstrate cultural awareness of politeness and various gestures through class discussions
- Perform simple language functions including: self-introduction; creation with language; description of places, locations, people, feelings; and ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics

Evaluation

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

Item	Grade	Notes
Active Participation	10%	Full grade is for no unexcused absences and active participation in class activities. Absences may only be excused by Dean or Health Center. Each unexcused absence will reduce your participation grade by two points out of 10. Using any kind of electronics or smart phones in class is considered a class rule violation and will reduce this grade by two points.
Homework Assignments	15%	Assignments are checked every day. Students are required to do homework 1-2 hours per day. Late assignments are accepted but lose -2 points for each late day. Check grading rubric.
Quizzes	15%	Regular spelling quizzes are held at the end of each module. Check grading rubrics.
Mid-Term Exam	30%	Second week of October.
Final Exam	30%	Wednesday December 18 at 11-11:50 AM
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.

Diversity Resources for USC Students: Please check the following link to know about more resources on diversity and inclusion at: <https://diversity.usc.edu/resources-for-students/>

Attendance Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is mandatory and will be reflected in students' participation grade. more than 10 minutes late is considered an absence. 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. Students are expected to behave respectfully, professionally and do not disturb lectures by making noises or talking to others. Disturbing lectures is considered a class rule violation and will reduce participation grade.

Policy on Usage of Electronic Devices

All electronic devices including cell phones, smart phones, laptops, etc. should be turned off in class. You will be asked to leave class if found working on your electronic devices. You may lose 2 points out of your participation grade for each class rule violations. Please refrain from eating food and drinking soda in class in observation of others. Water is fine.

Textbook

- Peyman Nojournian (2017). *Persian Learner Part One: Elementary Persian for College Students*, California: UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies. Audio and video materials will be available through the Blackboard system.

Supplementary Materials

The textbook contains a lexicon at the end of the book. However, students can install a web App at the following link to access a free online Elementary Learner's Dictionary: <http://m.persianlearner.com/>

Grading

Persian-I (IRAN 120) 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

The Path to the Minor in Iranian Studies:

This course starts the path to the minor in Iranian Studies. Students are required to do five courses including Persian-IV (IRAN 250), Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) and Advanced Persian-II (IRAN 350) for the minor. Elementary Persian courses (Persian-I, Persian-II and Persian-III) are all pre-requisite for the Persian-IV and Advanced Persian courses. For those with prior study of Persian a placement exam is offered by the Language Center to determine language level. If student proficiency surpasses the third-semester college level, the language faculty should be consulted about a higher-level proficiency exam.

End of Semester Course Evaluations

USC will send you a link at your Blackboard account to do evaluations 9 days before the final exams. The last day of the class is usually assigned to complete Course Evaluations in the classroom. It is expected that all students actively participate in the Course Evaluations and write constructive comments for the improvement of the course.

Written Assignment Grading Rubric

Written assignments are in the textbook and will be graded based on the following criteria:

Grading Rubric	Points
Grammatical Errors: each grammatical error reduces the grade by -1 points.	25
Meaning Errors: each inappropriate usage of vocabulary reduces the grade by -1 points.	25
Spelling Errors: each spelling error reduces the grade by -0.5 points.	25
Quality of Writing: it clearly states concepts in simple and accurate sentences. The amount of writing is appropriate for the task.	25
Total	100

Spelling Quiz Grading Rubric

After each unit is finished, there will be a spelling quiz on new vocabulary identified in the book with a picture.

Quizzes have 20 to 40 words for 20-40 points. Each spelling error, even one letter, will reduce the point by -1. Spelling quiz dates have been noted in course schedule. The quiz will be given at the beginning of the class for 15-20 minutes. Students who missed the quiz because of an excused absence should contact the instructor to arrange a make up quiz.

Bonus Credit

Your instructor will announce several opportunities for earning bonus credits. Bonus credits can increase the final grade, eliminate an unexcused absence or a class rule violation, at the discretion of the instructor.

Persian-I (IRAN 120) – ¹Tentative Course Schedule – August 26, 2019 to December 6, 2019

Week	Module	Language Functions & Tasks	Themes	Forms	Cultural Components	Assignments & Quizzes
1-2	Unit 1	Functions: Greetings & simple self-introduction Greet & introduce yourself, your job, age, field of study, etc. Name familiar objects in the class. Writing: Learn Persian phonetic transcription. Recognize and write numbers (1-20).	Greetings, Familiar Objects	Basic Sentence Structure	Colloquial vs. Writing Styles	Pages 4, 7, 12, 17
3-4	Unit 2	Functions: Describing familiar objects. Telling the time. Answering simple questions on familiar topics. Writing: Learn set7 letters of alphabet {alef, dâl, re, ze, zhe, vâv,}. Practice numbers (20-100).	Familiar Objects, Time, Numbers	Verb “to be”	Honorific and Courtesy forms	Pages 22, 26, 30, 34
5-6	Unit 3	Functions: Describing date and time. Talking about seasons, date, time, days of the week, and basic colors. Writing: Learning & recognizing 4 connecting letters of the alphabet {be, te, sin, ye}. Recognize and write numbers (100-1000).	Date, Time, Colors, Seasons, Clothes	Simple Question Form	Clothing culture	Pages 36, 41, 45, 48 Spelling quiz 1
7-8	Unit 4	Functions: Extended self- introduction. Talking & writing about yourself in more details. Writing: Learning & recognizing 5 connecting letters of the alphabet {mim, she, nun, che, he}. Learning numbers bigger than 1000.	Work, Study, Self, Objects	Simple Present, Verb Conjugation	Working culture	Pages 52, 55, 58, 61, 67, 68 Spelling quiz 2
9-10	Unit 5	Functions: Instructing & following instructions Saying simple instructions and following simple commands. Reading about the summer. Writing: Learning & recognizing connecting letters of the alphabet {pe, khe, kâf}.	Current Events, Weather, Shopping,	Simple Imperative	Poetry and proverbs	Pages 72, 75, 78, 81, 84 Spelling quiz 3

¹ The course schedule is tentative and might be adjusted due to students’ needs and their learning pace.

11-12	Unit 6	<p>Functions: Describing friend's physical appearance, introducing self in more details. Reading about the fall.</p> <p>Writing: Learning & recognizing 3 connecting letters of the alphabet {gâf, lâm, jim}. Reviewing numbers, dates, times.</p>	Friends, Weather, Transportation,	Plural, Writing vs. Speaking Styles	Friendship culture. Food culture	Pages 89, 92, 96, 99, 100 Spelling quiz 4
13-14	Unit 7	<p>Functions: Describing foods. Talking about family friends, life & work. Reading about the winter and its festivities.</p> <p>Writing: Learning & recognizing 3 connecting letters of the alphabet {fe, qâf, he jimi}.</p>	Work, Extended Family, Food, Body parts	Possessives	Persian food. Persian exports, and religion of Islam	Pages 105, 108, 111, 115, 116 Spelling quiz 5
15	Unit 8	<p>Functions: Describing favorites & leisure time. Talking about relatives, favorites, and leisure time activities. Reading about Nowruz.</p> <p>Writing: Learning & recognizing 4 connecting letters of the alphabet {eyn, qeyn, sâd, zâd}.</p>	Leisure Time, Activities, Sports, Favorites New Year	Compound Verbs	Persian New Year "Nowruz".	Pages 121, 124, 130, 133, 136 Spelling quiz 6