

Persian-IV (IRAN 250) - Section 41524R
Class meets on: MTWTh, 12:00-12:50 PM via Zoom
Class location: Online
MDES Website: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes>

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian
Office: THH 256 N [when office is opened]
Office hours: 1:00-1:50 PM, M & W / by appointment
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Course Description

Persian-IV (IRAN 250) is a high intermediate course designed to develop Persian language proficiency in listening, writing and reading. Please check Language Center <https://dornsife.usc.edu/languages/> for placement test, d-clearance, and information on available language resources.

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

- Read texts of intermediate level difficulty and communicate in Persian on a variety of familiar topics.
- Write in extended paragraph length discourse.
- Demonstrate cultural awareness through additional readings, movies, and class discussions.
- Students should be able to perform the following language tasks in Persian: describe an event or on object in details; identify important information in discourse and write short summaries; find similarities and differences between ideas and express their own ideas; narrate an event in detail, using all times frames; express and support opinions, discern facts from opinions and write a short report.

Technology Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required: This course requires use of Blackboard, Zoom, Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF Reader. Having access to a printer/scanner or a scanner app on your cellphone will be handy and useful but not required (please see below for USC technology support). You can use an Apple Pencil on your iPad if you have one because you can easily write in Persian on any file, including a PDF file. You are encouraged to learn typing in Persian (see the help on page 168 on your textbook). Use Notes app on your iPhone to scan your assignments and tests into a small size PDF.

USC Technology Rental Program

We realize that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. To apply, please submit an application. The Student Basic Needs team will contact all applicants in early August and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the fall semester.

USC Technology Support Links

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

Required Textbook

- *Persian Learner Part Three: Intermediate Persian for College Students*, Peyman Nojournian.
- *Basic Persian, A Grammar & Workbook* by Saeed Yousef & H. Torabi (optional and can be used as a grammar reference)
- Web-based A/V instructional materials will be provided to the students by the instructor.

Supplementary Materials

Each textbook module contains lexicon at the end of the unit. However, students can install a Web App at the following link to access an online Elementary Learner's Dictionary: <https://m.persianlearner.com/>

Attendance Policy

Regular and prompt attendance (in-class or online) 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 or chatting with others. Disturbing lectures is considered a class rule violation and will reduce participation grade.

Policy on Usage of Electronic Devices & Food in Class

All electronic devices, including cellphones, smartphones, laptops, etc. should be turned off in class. You will be asked to leave class if found working on your electronic devices and get -5 points out of your attendance grade for each class rules violations. You should also avoid using any distracting devices on Zoom meetings. Please refrain from eating food and drinking soda in observation of others. Water is fine.

Evaluation:

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

Item	Grade	Notes
Active Participation + 3-minute oral report on Tuesdays	15%	This grade is an average of 5 items: attendance, bonus credit, assessment of speaking, listening and reading, each with a 100 point. Your speaking will be assessed through your Tuesday oral reports.
		Absences may only be excused by Dean or Health Center. Unexcused absences will reduce the attendance grade by -5 points. Please contact the instructor if you live in another time zone.
		In-person classes: Using any kind of electronics or smartphones in class, causing distraction, is considered a class rule violation and will reduce attendance grade by -5 points.
		Online: please refrain from using any other electronic devices except your laptop while on Zoom. Please see the netiquette rules for other specific on-line class rules. Your oral skills are assessed when you are doing speaking activities in Zoom's Breakout Rooms.
		You should answer two questions orally in class every Tuesdays for 3 minutes: 1. What did you do during the last weekend? 2. What do you plan to do for the next weekend?
Textbook Assignments + Book report	15%	Assignment pages are available on the Blackboard. Students need to do daily homework for at least 2 hours. Assignments are collected at the end of each textbook unit (see Course Schedule).
		Late assignment will be penalized by a 10% deduction in the assignment grade every 24 hours late unless due to an emergency situation excused by the instructor. Email the instructor as soon as possible to discuss alternate arrangements due to an emergency.
		In-person classes: print/type/write your assignments and turn them in at the end of each textbook unit.
		Online: You should type/write and scan your assignment into a PDF file and upload them to the Blackboard.
		Book report: You will read chapters of a simplified story book, given to you by the instructor, and write a brief summary in a short paragraph in Persian. Chapters have 1-2 pages. You do a total of 4 reports. The report is due on Sunday nights.
Presentation	30%	Choose a topic related to the Iranian culture & prepare minimum 10 slides in Persian.
Final Exam	40%	Friday May 7, 2021 at 11:00-11:50 AM. If online, type/write then scan and upload it to the Blackboard. Final exam covers all the taught units.
Total	100%	

Grading

Persian-IV (IRAN 250) 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

Zoom Classroom Etiquettes

- Please make sure that you have installed Zoom on your device before the start of online classes.
- Always access the secure Zoom class link through your USC Blackboard account.
- Zoom classes are recorded by default so you can access previous recorded sessions if needed.
- Check your audio and video settings before the meetings. Find the setting icon on upper right corner of your Zoom App.
- Please choose a quiet place with sufficient light.
- Please choose a proper place like your study room (not lying on a bed) and sit alone (no family or friend).
- Keep your phone or laptop charger ready to be hooked up if necessary.
- Please turn on your webcam because synchronous/face-to-face communication is an important part of language education.
- Mute your microphone if you are not speaking (Alt + A).
- Click on "raise your hand" button if you want to ask or answer a question (Alt + Y).
- Keep your microphone mute until your instructor unmutes you.
- Explore the possibility of typing in Persian on your device, especially on the chat section.
- Click on the chat icon to ask your questions or when you want to send a document to your instructor.
- Please avoid eating food while on-line. Water is fine. Please adhere to the same standards of behavior on-line that you follow in real life.
- Please do not leave the session before the meeting ends.
- Do not share or post anything unless instructed to do so by your instructor.
- Do not share any copyrighted materials unless you have permission to do so.
- Refrain from chatting or speaking with other participants unless instructed to do so by your instructor.
- The instructor may put you in Breakout Rooms to do role-play activities. Participate actively in these interactions.
- Please speak loud enough so that your voice is detected by Zoom.

- Please take turn in speaking because sometimes there is a delay when transferring audio.
- Please be courteous and respect your classmates and maintain confidentiality of your classmates' statements and information at all the times.

The Path to the Minor in Iranian Studies:

Persian-IV is considered an upper division course and counts toward the minor in Iranian Studies. The minor requires five courses including Persian-IV (IRAN 250), Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) and Advanced Persian-II (IRAN 350). Elementary Persian courses (Persian-I, Persian-II and Persian-III) are all pre-requisite for Persian-IV and Advanced Persian courses. For those with prior study of Persian, a placement test 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.

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

Please note that USC has a policy that prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

End of Semester Course Evaluations

USC will post a link to your Blackboard account for end of semester course evaluations, about 10 days before the final exams. The last day of class is usually assigned to complete course evaluations. It is expected that all students actively participate in the course evaluations and write constructive comments for the improvement of the course.

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 / Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with the University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

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. The essay is cohesive and used all means of connections to make it logical. Variety of verbs are used, and descriptions/narration are clear and in detail. -2 points for each missing element.	25
Total	100

Presentation: Choose a cultural or familiar topic (Persian music, traditions, cinema, holidays, literary figures, etc.) and get it approved by the instructor. Present it in Persian in at least 6-10 PowerPoint slides. Students have 20 minutes to present.

Presentation Grading Rubric	Points
Choose an original, interesting and relevant topic to the course contents	20%
Present two or more different resources from media, web sites, articles or books	20%
Describe locations, events, traditions, objects or people using simple sentences. Compare any existing similarities or differences between the American and Iranian culture in your presentation.	20%
Use slides, audio/video/photos as relevant cues	20%
Ask and answer simple and some open-ended questions on the topic of the presentation. All the students should actively participate in presentations and ask questions from the presenters.	20%
Total	100%

Persian IV (IRAN 250) - Tentative Course Schedule – Tue Jan 19th, 2021 – April 29th, 2021

Week	Unit	Task Types	Themes	Forms	Cultural Component	Assignment & Book Reports
1-3	21	Tasks: Describing foods and places. Handling a simple situation. Expressing simple opinions on foods. Writing about food.	Foods, Restaurant, Traditions, Customs	Imperative, Subjunctive, Detailed Descriptions	Persian Food Culture, National Customs and Traditions	Pages 6, 11, 16, 20, Book report1 due week 3
4-7	23	Task: Identifying cultural values, personalities and characters. Expressing opinion on characteristics. Describing personality. Comparing marriage Iranian vs. western styles. analyzing a case. Watching a movie. Project: Writing about a memorable event	Marriage Iranian Style	Main Clause Subordinate Clause Adjectives & Nouns Past Perfect	Iranian Marriage Cultural Values Persian Poetry & Songs	Pages 46, 50, 57, 60, Book report2 due week 6
8-11	24	Task: Supporting opinions. Dealing with social interactions properly using Taarof. Dealing with a familiar situation with complexity. Analyzing humor and cartoons. Project: Writing a short story	Taarof Requests	Subjunctive Accept or Reject Forms, Compound Verb, Taarof	Iranian Taarof, Cinema Persian Classic Poetry	Pages 66, 71, 76, 80, Book report3 due week 10
12-15	25	Task: Describing current events. Describing an accident in detail. Narrating an event. Report an event. Analyzing an infographic.	Accidents Current Events	Subjunctive Present Perfect	Cultural Events Persian Proverbs	Pages 87, 92, 96, 100, Book report4 due week 13
16	Presentation	Task: Presentational skills. All students present their talks and should attend to get full credit of presentation	Iranian Culture	Presentational forms, Q&As	Topics related to the Iranian culture	Presentation
Final Exam		Friday May 8 ^h , 2020: 1100 AM				