

Persian-I (IRAN 120) - Section 41502D  
Class meets in-person at THH 112 on: MTW 10:00-10:50 AM  
Class meets online on Th 10:00-10:50 AM (via Zoom)  
Course web: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes>

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian  
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Office hours: T & Th, 1:00-1:50 PM / by appointment  
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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. Please check Assessment Center <https://dornsife.usc.edu/languages/> for placement tests and d-clearance. For information on available language resources check Center for Languages and Cultures: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/center-for-languages-and-cultures/>

**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

**Recommended Preparation:** Browse <https://www.persianlearner.com/> and click on the main menu item “Iran”. Please educate yourselves about Iran under this tab and learn and practice useful phrases under the “5- Persian useful phrases”. Feel free to add Persian Learner’s Dictionary to your mobile’s home screen from here: <https://m.persianlearner.com/>. The dictionary almost covers textbook vocabulary and contains pronunciation, photos, and contextual examples. You can find useful links to other Persian language resources.

**Technology Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required:** This course requires use of Blackboard, Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF Reader and Zoom. Having access to a printer/scanner or a scanner app on your cellphone will be handy and useful but not required. You can use “Notes” on iPhone (under its camera icon) to scan any document and turn it to a PDF file. Please see below for USC technology support as well. You can use an Apple Pencil on your iPad if you have one because you can easily write in Persian on any file, including on PDF files. You are encouraged to learn typing in Persian (see page 168 of your textbook).

## **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 and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the semester.

## **USC Technology Support Links**

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

## **Required Textbook**

Peyman Nojournian (2017). *Persian Learner Part One: Elementary Persian for College Students*, California: UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies (linked on [persianlearner.com](#) to Amazon). Audio and video materials as well as assignment pages will be available on the Blackboard.

## **Supplementary Materials**

The textbook contains a lexicon at the end of the book. However, students can add the web App icon to their cellphones home screen to access the 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, chatting or talking to others. Disturbing lectures is considered a class rule violation and will reduce participation grade.

## **Policy on Usage of Electronic Devices & Eating Food in Class**

All electronic devices, including smartphones, laptops, etc. should be turned off in class unless needed by the instructor. 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 (if applicable). Please refrain from eating food and drinking soda in observation of others. Water is fine.

## Evaluation & Grading Percentage

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

Item	Grade	Notes
Active Participation	10%	This grade is an average of 5 items: <b>attendance, bonus credit, assessment of speaking, listening and reading</b> , each with a 100 point.
		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 for any possible online session.
		<b>In-person classes:</b> 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.
		<b>Online</b> (if applicable): please refrain from using any electronic devices except your laptop while on Zoom. Please see the netiquette rules for other specific on-line class rules. Your oral skills may be assessed when you are doing speaking activities in Zoom's Breakout Rooms.
Assignments	15%	Assignment pages are available on the Blackboard. Students need to do daily homework for at least 2 hours. Assignments are collected <u>at the end of each textbook unit</u> (see Course Schedule on page 8).
		Late assignment will be penalized by a 10% deduction in the assignment grade every 24 hours late unless due to an emergency excused by the instructor. Please email your instructor as soon as possible to discuss alternate arrangements due to an emergency.
		<b>In-person classes:</b> print/type/write your assignments and turn them in at the end of each textbook unit.
		<b>Online:</b> You can type/write and scan your assignment into a PDF file and upload them to the Blackboard.
Quizzes	15%	<b>In-person classes:</b> Regular spelling quizzes are held at the end of each textbook unit. Check grading rubrics.
		<b>Online:</b> timed and proctored spelling quizzes may be given on Blackboard. Please write words and scan them. Then upload your answers to the Blackboard.
Mid-Term Exam	30%	2 <sup>nd</sup> week of October. If online, type/write then scan and upload it to the Blackboard.
Final Exam	30%	Monday December 13, 2021 at 9:00-09:50 AM. If online, type/write answers then scan and upload it to the Blackboard. Final exam covers all the taught units.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Grading Scale

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

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## **Spelling Quiz Grading Rubric**

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

A spelling quiz consists of 20 words/phrases for 20 points. Each spelling error, even one letter, will reduce the point by -1. Spelling quiz dates are available in the course schedule. The quiz will be given at the beginning of the class for 10-20 minutes. Students who missed the quiz because of an excused absence should contact the instructor to arrange a make up quiz.

## **The Path to the Minor in Iranian Studies:**

This course starts a 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. Persian-III is a pre-requisite course 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).*

## 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](https://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](https://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](https://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](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

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

[ombuds.usc.edu](http://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.

## Persian-I (IRAN 120) – <sup>1</sup>Tentative Course Schedule – Mon, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 to December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Week	Module	Language Functions & Tasks	Themes	Forms	Cultural Components	Assignments & Quizzes
1-2	Unit 1	<b>Functions:</b> Greetings & simple self-introduction Greet & introduce yourself, your job, age, field of study, etc. Name familiar objects in the class. <b>Writing:</b> 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 (Due after the unit is finished)
3-4	Unit 2	<b>Functions:</b> Describing familiar objects. Telling the time. Answering simple questions on familiar topics. <b>Writing:</b> 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	<b>Functions:</b> Describing date and time. Talking about seasons, date, time, days of the week, and basic colors. <b>Writing:</b> 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 <b>Spelling quiz 1</b>
7-8	Unit 4	<b>Functions:</b> Extended self- introduction. Talking & writing about yourself in more details. <b>Writing:</b> 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 <b>Spelling quiz 2</b>
9-10	Unit 5	<b>Functions:</b> Instructing & following instructions Saying simple instructions and following simple commands. Reading about the summer. <b>Writing:</b> 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 <b>Spelling quiz 3</b>

<sup>1</sup> The course schedule is tentative and may be adjusted due to students’ needs and their learning pace.



11-12	Unit 6	<p><b>Functions:</b> Describing friend’s physical appearance, introducing self in more details. Reading about the fall.</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Learning &amp; 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 <b>Spelling quiz 4</b>
13	Unit 7	<p><b>Functions:</b> Describing foods. Talking about family friends, life &amp; work. Reading about the winter and its festivities.</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Learning &amp; 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 <b>Spelling quiz 5</b>
If time allows	Unit 8	<p><b>Functions:</b> Describing favorites &amp; leisure time. Talking about relatives, favorites, and leisure time activities. Reading about Nowruz.</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Learning &amp; 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 <b>Spelling quiz 6</b>

## 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.

## COVID-19 Policy Compliance

Students are expected to comply with all aspects of USC’s COVID-19 policy. Failure to do so may result in removal from the class and referral to SJACS. If you get sick with Covid-19 please follow the USC guidelines available at <https://coronavirus.usc.edu/>. You can always access class recordings on Zoom.

## **Zoom Classroom Etiquettes**

Because of the barrier that masks pose and issues with clear masks (e.g. lack of protection), USC deans have approved one online session for this course to include the benefit of seeing the language instructor's mouth for pronunciation. Please read the following guidelines to get the most out of our online sessions.

- Please make sure that you have installed Zoom on your device and updated it 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.