

Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) - Section 41534R
Class meets in-person at THH 221 on Tue, 2:00-3:50 PM
Class meets online on Th, 2:00-3:50 PM (via Zoom)
Course web: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes>

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian
Office: THH 256 J
Office hours: Tue & Th, 1-1:50 PM / by appointment
Phone: (213) 740-2310
Email: nojournia@usc.edu

Course Description:

Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) is an upper-division course designed to develop advanced language skills in listening, speaking, writing and reading comprehension. Students will also develop cultural competency through class discussions.

Learning Objectives: At the end of the language requirement, students who actively participate & complete all assigned work will be able to:

- Communicate and converse on variety of familiar and everyday topics such as people, places, and current events using simple and short paragraphs in colloquial and formal spoken Persian and handle a complicated situation
- Write at least three coherent paragraphs on familiar topics using connected sentences and appropriate written forms of Persian script
- Find the main idea in paragraph-length texts and identify important details on a variety of everyday topics
- Relate text content to personal life and interests and make comparisons with their own personal experiences
- Discuss similarities and differences between Iranian and American traditions, customs, everyday life, and special events
- Express opinions on variety of every day topics using short paragraphs
- Make connections between their native culture and that of the target language

Evaluation:

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

Item	%	Notes
Active Participation	10%	This grade is an average of 5 items: attendance, bonus credit, assessment of speaking, listening and reading , 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.
Assignments	30%	Assignment pages are available on the Course Schedule section. Students need to do daily homework for at least 2 hours. Assignments are collected at the end of each textbook unit. Print/type/write your assignments and turn them in at the end of each textbook unit. You should also read a book assigned by your instructor and write a 100 words summary in Persian and submit with your other assignments.
Short Essay	30%	Choose a topic before the recess. Write an essay in at least 3 pages. See the grading rubric in the next page.
Final Exam	30%	Thursday December 9, 2021; 2:00-2:50 PM

Short Essay Grading Rubric: Please write an essay in Persian in at least 3 pages on a topic of your choice. Your topic should be approved by your instructor before you start writing it. Some suggested topics: Iranian culture and identity, Iranian customs and traditions, traditional and modern Iranian handicrafts, paintings, and music. Social issues and minorities, and Iran's relation with the US.

Item	Criteria	Points
1	Originality of the topic and argument. Your topic is required to be approved in advanced to get the full score of this criterion. Write a title for your paper and state your name, date and name of your instructor in the cover page. Feel free to contact the instructor for help or resources.	10%
2	Thoroughness of the research using reliable and varied resources. At least one reliable resource is required to be referred to in your paper. Internet resources can be chosen if referenced appropriately. References should be stated whenever there is a quote or paraphrase. List references at the bibliography. Please adhere to the USC Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity in doing your research and citing references.	20%
3	Organization of the paper, clarity and cohesiveness of the writing. Clear statement of the argument in introduction. Smooth and logical transition from one point to the next one. Conclusion should deliver the punch line of the paper.	30%
4	Analysis rather than description of events. Closely analyzing two or more substantive ideas is a key component of the argument. Provide critical analysis in which arguments are examined for evidence, validity, logic, and flaws. Your writing based on generalities and mere description of the events without substantive and close analysis of the events will NOT receive full score.	40%
Total		100%

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

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.

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).

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 to others. Disturbing lectures is considered a class rule violation and will reduce participation grade.

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 required to learn typing in Persian at this level.

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](#)

Policy on Usage of Electronic Devices & Eating Food in Class

All electronic devices, including cellphones, 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 (if applicable). Please refrain from eating food and drinking soda in observation of others. Water is fine.

Required Textbook

- Peyman Nojournian (2018). *Persian Learner Part Four: Advanced Persian for College Students*, California: UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies.
- Audio and video materials will be uploaded to the Blackboard system.
- Saeed Yousef & H. Torabi (2012). *Basic Persian, A Grammar & Workbook*, Routledge.

Grading

Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) 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 Minor in Iranian Studies:

This is an upper division course and counts towards the Minor in Iranian Studies. Students are required to do five courses for the minor including Persian-IV (IRAN 250), Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) and Advanced Persian-II (IRAN 350).

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.

Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) – ¹Tentative Course Schedule - August 23rd, 2021 to December 3rd, 2021

Week	Module	Tasks	Themes	Form	Cultural component	Assignment Pages
1- 3	Unit 31	Tasks: Identify important information in an audio, or reading content. Write summaries and important information.	History of Ancient Iran 8000 BC to 640 AD	Description, Narration, Analysis	Iranian Ancient History & Cultural Identity	Unit 31 assignments pages 7, 12, 16.
4- 6	Unit 32	Tasks: Identify 5Ws (what, who, where, when, why), analyze the extended discourse in audio and reading materials. Watch documentaries and write summaries and reports.	History of Iranian Middle Ages 640 AD to 1900 AD	Description, Narration, Analysis	Iranian Middle Ages History & Cultural Identity	Unit 32 assignments pages 24, 28, 33, 34, 38, 41. Book chapter 1
7- 9	Unit 33	Tasks: Identify important information, read and listen to poetry and analyze them. Write biography and summarize a prose. Express your opinion on abstract ideas and concepts.	Persian Classic Literature	Analysis, Narration, Literary Language	Persian Classic Literature and Culture	Unit 33 assignments pages 51, 55, 63, 65, 69, 70. Book chapter 2
10-12	Unit 34	Tasks: Find out similarities & differences, discern facts from opinions, analyze information. Write reports and summaries. Express your opinions in abstract forms. Take a stand on current events and defend it.	Modern History of Iran 1900-2000 AD	Analysis, All time frames	Modern History of Iran and Pop Culture	Unit 34 assignments pages 79, 81, 89, 95. Book chapter 3
13-15	Unit 35	Tasks: Express positive and negative opinions, support ideas, identify cause and effects. Write analysis. Hypothesize.	Persian Contemporary Literature	Expression of Opinion	Contemporary Literature and Pop Culture of Iran	Unit 35 assignments pages 100, 113, 116. Book chapter 4

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.

¹ The course schedule is tentative, and it might be adjusted to the students' needs and learning pace.

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.