

Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) - Section 41534R
Class meets on Tue & Th, 2:00-3:50 PM at THH 221
Office hours: Tu & Th, 1:00-2:00 PM / by appointment
Course web: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes>

Instructor: Peyman Nojournian
Office: THH 256 J
Phone: (213) 740-2310 (text or call)
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. Additionally, students will cultivate cultural awareness through engaging class discussions.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course, students who actively participate and 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.

Grading Breakdown:

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. .
Assignments	30%	Assignment pages are available on the Course Schedule section. Students need to do daily homework for a minimum of 1 to 2 hours. Assignments are due at the end of each unit. Print-write-scan or type your assignment pages then save them in a single PDF file. Name the file as Unit#-Firstname.pdf and upload it to the Blackboard (under each unit Assignment tab). 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 7, 2023; 2:00-2:50 PM

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual attendance (in-class or online) is obligatory and will be reflected in students' participation grade. Being over 10 minutes late is considered an absence. Language learning classes are highly interactive, featuring numerous class activities and discussions. Consequently, consistent attendance and active involvement in the class discussions are vital for maximizing your learning experience. Absent students are responsible for obtaining any missed information from the instructor or peers. Students are expected to conduct themselves respectfully and professionally, refraining from disrupting lectures with noise, chatting or checking cellphones. Disrupting lectures is a breach of class rules and will lead to a reduction in the participation grade.

Policy on Usage of Electronic Devices and Food Consumption in Class

All electronic devices, including smartphones and laptops must be turned off during class unless specifically required by the instructor. You may be asked to leave the class if you are found working on your electronic devices, and a deduction of 5 points from your attendance grade will be applied for each violation of class rules. Please abstain from consuming food during class in consideration of your fellow classmates. Drinking water, however, is permitted.

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	%
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	%
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

Technology Proficiency and Required Hardware/Software: This course requires the use of Blackboard, Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF Reader and Zoom. While having access to a printer/scanner or a scanner app on your cellphone can be convenient and useful it is not mandatory. An option for iPhone users is to scan homework pages using “Notes” app (click its camera icon) and turn them to a single PDF file. You can also use an Apple pen on an iPad to write on your homework pages and save them in PDF. You are encouraged to learn typing in Persian (see page 168 of your textbook). Further details about USC’s technology support can be found below.

USC Technology Support Links

[USC Computing Center Laptop Loaner Program](#)

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

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 Yusef & H. Torabi (2012). *Basic Persian, A Grammar & Workbook*, Routledge. (Optional material)

Supplementary Materials

Basic Persian, A Grammar and Workbook by Saeed Yusef (2012). Routledge (an optional resource that can be used as a reference).

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 may count towards the Minor in Iranian Studies. To fulfill the requirements for the minor, students are required to complete five courses, starting with Persian-IV (IRAN 250). For minors with Iranian Studies Concentration, students must take Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320). Advanced Persian-I, Advanced Persian-II or Business Persian (IRAN 325) may be taken as electives. For the latest minor in Iranian Studies course requirements, please refer to:

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes/iranian-studies/>

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. 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. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320) – ¹ Tentative Course Schedule - August 21 st to December 1 st , 2023						
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

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.

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

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to

generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

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

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

[*988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline*](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)*](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[*Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)*](#) - (213) 740-5086

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

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

[*The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)*](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

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

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

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

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) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

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

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

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

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.