

Persian-IV (IRAN 250) - Section 41524R
Class meets on MTWTh 12:00-12:50 PM at WPH 603
Office hours: Tu & Th, 1:00-1:50 PM or by appointment
MDES Website: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes>

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Course Description:

Persian-IV (IRAN 250) is a high intermediate course designed to develop Persian language proficiency in speaking, listening, writing, and reading. For placement test and d-clearance, please refer to <https://dornsife.usc.edu/languages/>. Comprehensive language resources can be accessed through the Center for Languages and Cultures website at: <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:

- 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 may require the use of Brightspace, 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 on its camera icon) and turn them to a single PDF file. You can also use the digital pen on an iPad to write on your homework pages and save them in PDF. You are encouraged to type your assignments in Persian. Please remember to name your final files in this format: “Unit#_Firstname.pdf”. Further details about USC’s technology support can be found below.

Course Notes

The course content, syllabus, announcements, audio/video materials and assignment pages are all available at the USC Brightspace portal: <https://brightspace.usc.edu/d2l/home> Due assignments should be uploaded to the Brightspace under course assignment uploads.

USC Technology Support Links

[USC Computing Center Laptop Loaner Program](#)

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Brightspace help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

Required Textbook

- *Persian Learner Part Three: Intermediate Persian for College Students*, Peyman Nojournian.
- Web-based A/V instructional materials will be provided to the students by the instructor.

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. This course is primarily offered in-person, but occasional Zoom recordings may be available at the instructor's discretion. However, participation via Zoom does NOT excuse any absence unless supported by medical or emergency documentation.

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.

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%	The active participation grade comprises an average of five components: attendance, class conduct, assessment of speaking, listening, and reading , each weighted with a maximum of 100 points.
		Only absences approved by the Dean or Health Center will be considered excused. Unexcused absences will result in a 5-point deduction from the attendance grade.
		The use of electronics or smartphones in class is deemed a violation of class rules and will result in a 5-point deduction from the class conduct grade.
		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 (Story book report)	15%	Assignment pages can be found on Brightspace. Students should dedicate at least a minimum of 1-2 hours daily to complete the assignments to gain mastery of each course module. Assignments are due upon completion of each textbook unit.
		Late submission of assignments may lead to a 10% deduction from the assignment grade for each 24-hour delay, unless excused due to a certified emergency approved by the instructor. Please contact your instructor via email promptly to discuss alternative arrangements in case of an emergency.
		Please print, write, scan, or type your assignment pages and save them in a single PDF file. Name the file as " Unit#-Firstname.pdf " and upload it to Brightspace under the corresponding unit's Assignment tab.
		Book report: You will read chapters of a short story book, given to you by the instructor, and write a summary in a short paragraph in Persian. Chapters have 1-2 pages. You do a total of 4 reports. The report is due on every other Sundays.
Presentation	30%	Choose a topic related to the Iranian culture and present it in a minimum of 10 slides in Persian.
Final Exam	40%	Friday May 9 th , 2025, at 11:00-11:50 AM.
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

The Path to the Minor in Iranian Studies:

This course serves as a stepping stone toward pursuing a minor in Iranian Studies. To fulfill the requirements for the minor, students must complete five courses, starting with Persian-IV (IRAN 250). Elective options include Advanced Persian-I (IRAN 320), Advanced Persian-II (IRAN 350), and Business Persian (IRAN 325). For the most up-to-date information on the minor requirements in Iranian Studies, please consult: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/mdes/iranian-studies/>

It's important to note that Persian-III serves as a prerequisite for Persian-IV and Advanced Persian courses. Students with prior Persian language study can take a placement test offered by [Language@USC](#) to determine their proficiency level. If a student's proficiency exceeds the third-semester college level, they should consult the language faculty regarding a higher-level proficiency exam.

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 relation to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. Distributing course material without the instructor's permission will be presumed to be an intentional act to facilitate or enable academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

End of Semester Course Evaluations

USC will provide a link to your Brightspace account for end-of-semester course evaluations approximately 10 days before the final exams. Typically, the last day of class is designated for completing these evaluations. Active participation from all students is expected, including writing constructive comments aimed at improving the course.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

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

Academic dishonesty has a far-reaching impact and is considered a serious offense against the university. Violations will result in a grade penalty, such as a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, and disciplinary action from the university itself, such as suspension or even expulsion.

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.

Student Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress:

To be eligible for certain kinds of financial aid, students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward their degree objectives. Visit the [Financial Aid Office webpage](#) for [undergraduate](#)- and [graduate-level](#) SAP eligibility requirements and the appeals process.

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 consists 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) 740-2500

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.

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 (in Persian), 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 – Mon Jan 13 th , 2025 – May 2 nd , 2025						
Week	Unit	Task Types	Themes	Forms	Cultural Component	Assignment & Book Reports
1-3	21 & 22	Tasks: Describing foods and places. Handling a simple situation. Expressing simple opinions on foods. Writing about food. Unit 22 will be reviewed only.	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

Online Classroom Etiquettes

If an online class is offered, students are expected to adhere to the rules applicable to online classes:

- 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 Brightspace 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. To see a list of community agreements on respectful and constructive class discussion (online or not) check this link: <https://cet.usc.edu/teaching-resources/a-menu-of-discussion-norms/>