

Syllabus
PRS 403 / PRS 503 Advanced Persian I

Office: Marshall Building 452

Course Description: This course is designed to improve reading and writing skills. Guided readings in Persian will help prepare students for independent research. Students will learn strategies for reading, writing, translation, and handling textual history and literary works. Students engage in intensive reading and discussion of numerous contemporary short texts by major poets and writers. Readings consist primarily of contemporary materials covering a variety of themes and topics plus some examples of modern literary works (PRS 404/504 will emphasis classical works). The non-fiction sections have been developed into learning objects to enable students to understand and analyze texts independently. The literary texts vary from year to year. They will include excerpts from novels, short stories, and poems by prominent authors. Some cultural materials will be presented as appropriate. The art of calligraphy will be also be introduced. Students should have a degree of proficiency in spoken Persian because the course is conducted in Persian. Graduate-level requirements include additional readings and translations. Evaluation is based on translations of the readings, class preparation, quizzes, and a final examination or project. The date of the final exam or the final project is December 9, 2005 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Evaluation:

Class Participation and attendance	30%
Homework and assignments	30%
Final Exam (Presentation and project)	40%

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 E=

Additional Information:

The purpose of this course is to teach advanced Persian through a variety of literary texts, learning objectives in listening, and media. The course begins with reading texts that are specifically designed for teaching lower levels of Persian and then continues with texts for advanced Persian. It explores selected topics drawn from actual culturally, politically, and historically significant texts written by authors in Iran. The genre of the texts includes religious, biographical, historical, and political texts, as well as travelogues, diaries, and the most recent fictional and non-fictional works published. In between these texts, students will listen to sound files (to be studied at CMES computer room) to engage in advance level activities in comprehension. There will also be movies and selections from Iranian TV. In this course, students use primarily un-manipulated materials that cover a variety of topics.

By the end of the course, students will have gained a thorough understanding of Persian grammar and an ability to narrate, explain, and describe events in past, present and future tenses. They will know the ways compound verbs and nouns are formed, the ways various derivatives are made, understand the internal relationship of cognates and how the morphological function of a given word may change, various uses of stems and participles, and finally a very basic knowledge of how to scan a Persian poem. Students will also be able to initiate and sustain discussion on a variety of subjects including unfamiliar subjects. They will be able to communicate with native speakers in person or on the phone and will be able to comprehend news program on radio and TV and talk and write about these and other current events.

Course Requirements and Attendance: Students will be taught through pre-reading activities, enabling activities, and post-reading activities related to the texts, repetition drills, frequent use of full sentences, acting, and reading loud. This will be augmented by the reading and grammatical analysis of advanced texts such as short stories and one poem. Students will speak Persian in class discussion. There will be a midterm and a final exam. Class attendance is absolutely necessary. In addition to the classes, students may opt to attend several Persian movies (and discussions) at the Chaykhaneh, a trip to a Persian restaurant , and an end of the semester dinner-dance party.