

PERS-0100: Elementary Persian I
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
Fall 2023

Instructor: Mahyar Entezari
Email: entezari@sas.upenn.edu
Phone: (215) 573-6147
Office: Williams Hall 445
Office Hours: Wed. 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM,
and also by appointment

Course Description:

PERS-0100 (Elementary Persian I) is an introductory-level course designed to help you start learning Persian and to give you the necessary tools to continue your study of Persian. This course introduces the Persian alphabet alongside grammar and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on actively using the language for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. The four language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as pronunciation and culture are integrated into the curriculum. There is no prerequisite.

By the end of this course you will:

1. Have mastered the Persian alphabet and sound system, be able to recognize and pronounce correctly all Persian sounds, and write accurately;
2. Be able to initiate social interactions, ask for basic information, and be aware of basic cultural aspects of social interaction in Persian;
3. Be able to talk about yourself, your education, and your family in Persian;
4. Comprehend simple print texts on familiar topics;
5. Comprehend simple audio/video texts on familiar topics;
6. Be able to compose simple paragraphs about yourself and your family and friends;
7. Know about the difference between written and spoken Persian, recognize both registers, and be able to use basic expressions.

Course Materials:

1. *Persian of Iran Today, Volume One*: The book and audiovisual materials are available for free online at aits.utexas.edu/persian_teaching_resources; however, **students must purchase the textbook** (available from Amazon.com) and bring it with them to class.
2. Supplementary vocabulary lists and other materials provided by the instructor.
3. Canvas: In this class we will use Canvas—a web-based course management system at canvas.upenn.edu—to access schedules, certain assignments and materials, and grades.
4. Email: Additionally, you will receive emails with important course information sent to the course listserv, so be sure to check your email (and spam folder) frequently.

Grade Distribution:

Participation: 30%
Homework: 30%
Corrections: 5%
Quizzes: 20%
Culture Blog: 5%
Skits: 5%
Presentation: 5%

Course Requirements:

Participation (30%)

Class time will be devoted to **activating** the vocabulary and structures that you have prepared at home through your homework. You will spend the majority of class time doing activities in pairs and small groups. Thus, attendance and *active* participation in class are essential to your making good language-proficiency gains and doing well in the class. This part of your grade will be based on daily points assigned by your instructor (on Canvas) according to the following criteria:

- 5 points:** You are **actively** engaged in developing your Persian proficiency by communicating **in Persian as much as possible** from the moment you walk into the class until you leave it. Full credit is earned when you,
- i. arrive to class on time;
 - ii. are well prepared for the class, which means that you have listened to recorded materials on the accompanying website, learned the new vocabulary, read the grammar explanations carefully and done the homework drills based on those explanations before coming to class;
 - iii. you submit fully completed homework *before* the beginning of class;
 - iv. are alert (i.e., are listening whenever someone has the floor);
 - v. participate actively when we are working together as a class;
 - vi. make maximum use of pair/group work time by,
 - a) understanding the learning objectives of tasks assigned,
 - b) staying focused on those objectives,
 - c) continuing to work with your partner on the task objectives even if you “finish” an assigned task before the allotted time is up. (Ask your instructor for additional instructions if you aren’t sure what to do next.)

Note: If you come to class but do not submit homework, the most you can earn that day for attendance and participation is 3 out of 5 points. This does penalize you twice for not doing the homework, but that is because the homework is *essential* to doing classwork.

Attendance Policies:

- Your lowest three grades for participation will be dropped.
- Please inform your instructor by email of an absence as soon as possible *before—not after*—the class you will miss. This helps considerably in planning for class activities.

Tardiness Policy:

Arriving late to class is disruptive, so please make every effort to be in class and ready to start working when class begins. Points will be deducted for tardiness as follows: arrival during the first 5 minutes of class = 1 point; arrival during the first 10 minutes = 2 points; arrival during the first 15 minutes = 3 points; arrival during the first 20 minutes = 4 points. If you arrive more than 20 minutes late you will receive a “zero” for that day’s attendance and participation, and it will count as an absence in applying the absence policy.

Classroom Conduct Policies:

- Use of laptops, tablets, and phones is not permitted.
- Please set phones to silent mode (not just vibrate).
- Food is not allowed.

Homework (30%)

Expect to spend about one to two hours on homework for every class session. To prepare for the learning that takes place through practice in class, you will listen to, read and study new material at home. This material will not be presented in class. To help you process this material, you will have daily written assignments ***due at the beginning of class on the day designated in the schedule***. The amount of effort you put into your at-home preparation and your homework is an important part of your homework grade. Pay close attention to your instructor’s comments on your assignments, and follow up promptly in office hours or after class if you have questions.

Homework assignments will be rated on a **scale of 1 to 5 (5=excellent; 4=good but not your best effort; 3=average; 2=poor; 1=very poor work)**. You will be rated on the overall quality of your work, not merely on the number of correct or incorrect answers. Note that you do not have to have everything 100% correct on your homework in order to get a “5” as long as you have made your best effort. Your lowest three grades for homework will be dropped.

On each homework assignment:

1. write your name in Persian as soon as you are able to do so;
2. label the homework with the assignment number;
3. staple all pages together;
4. write in pencil;
5. and skip lines!

Note: Failure to do any of the above will lower your homework grade by a ½ point.

Fill-in-the-blanks: You will not receive full credit for submitting only the words from a fill-in-the-blank vocabulary or grammar exercises. The goal of such exercises is not just to develop your vocabulary, but also to recycle and reinforce the vocabulary and grammatical structures that you already know. By writing out the exercises in full, you notice details (such as spelling and grammar) that you might have missed before, you incorporate your new vocabulary into a system rather than producing simple lists, and you also increase your writing speed.

Late homework will **not** be accepted for a grade, but you ask for permission in advance if you there are circumstances that will prevent you from turning in an assignment on time.

Corrections (5%)

You will be asked to correct certain homework assignments. Homework assignments that need correcting will be returned with “اصلاح کنید” at the top of the page. Mistakes are a natural part of the learning process; however, in order to learn from mistakes, you must take time to recognize and correct them. Your instructor will use a simple code (available on Canvas) to identify the category of the error (spelling, grammar, word choice, etc.). **Using a different color, write the correction above or below the error on the original homework and then resubmit that very same page (with the corrections on it) at the next meeting.** To get full credit for corrections, you must attempt to correct every marked mistake. If you do not understand why something is wrong, make sure you get help before the corrections are due. Corrections receive a separate grade using a **scale of 1 to 5 (5=excellent; 4=good but not your best effort; 3=average; 2=poor; 1=very poor)**. Failure to use a different color of ink/pencil on corrections will result in a ½ point deduction. *Late submissions of homework corrections will not be accepted for a grade.*

Note: If you do not submit the original homework assignment, then you will automatically receive a zero for the correction grade. However, your lowest score will be dropped.

Quizzes (20%)

There will be three quizzes over the course of the semester. All quizzes focus on vocabulary and grammar, but reading and listening will be occasionally assessed as well. If you will miss/have missed a quiz, contact your instructor as soon as you know that you will be missing/have missed it. If you have not contacted your instructor within 24 hours after the quiz has been given to discuss the possibility of a make-up, you will receive a zero. Requests for make-ups will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The *tentative* dates for these quizzes are:

Quiz 1: Wed., Sept. 27

Quiz 2: Wed., Nov. 1

Quiz 3: Wed., Nov. 29

Culture Blog (5%)

In addition to your language work, over the course of the semester you will contribute to a blog about Persianate (Afghan, Iranian, Tajik, etc.) cultures. Each entry should contain a minimum of 250 words in English. You will post your entries on a group blog on Tumblr, signing your posts either with your first name, initials, or a penname that you share with your instructor. More details about this component of the course will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class before the first entry is due. **The due dates are Mondays, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4.**

Skits (5%)

You will prepare two skits with a partner and present them in class together. Skits give you the opportunity to show what you have learned and what you can create with the language, as well as to automatize your active recall of vocabulary and grammar. Instructions and a grading rubric will be provided in advance. **The skits due dates are Wednesdays, Oct. 11 and Dec. 6.**

Presentation (5%)

You will prepare a slideshow and accompanying spoken narrative, 3–5 minutes long, entirely in Persian. You may talk about yourself, someone else, or tell a story. Instructions and a grading rubric will be given advance. **The presentation due date is Monday, December 11.**

Final Grade Calculation and Grade Policies:

Number/letter grade equivalents are as follows:

Number	Letter	Number	Letter	Number	Letter	Number	Letter
93 - 100	A	86 - 88	B+	76 - 78	C+	66 - 68	D+
		83 - 85	B	73 - 75	C	63 - 65	D
89 - 92	A-	79 - 82	B-	69 - 72	C-	60* - 62	D-

*(below 60 = F)

- Grades on the border between two letter grades (88.9 for instance) may or may not be rounded up to the next higher letter grade, at the instructor's discretion.
- In order to continue to the next level of Persian, you must have a grade of "C+" or better.

Important University Policies:

CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The Penn Code of Academic Integrity is in effect in this class. Submitting any assignment or exam that is not your own, or that you did not participate fully in doing, is a violation of that code. While collaborative study *is* permitted, you may *not* copy one another's work. **Use of artificial intelligence or machine translation services is not permitted.**

Note: All students with 1) a Persian-speaking parent or 2) who have had schooling in a Persian-speaking country or 3) who have undertaken any formal study of Persian other than at Penn prior to enrollment in this course must take the departmental placement examination for Persian before beginning their study of Persian at Penn. Failure to do so constitutes an act of academic dishonesty. For more, please see: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/>

DISABILITIES: All students with disabilities who seek an accommodation at Penn have the responsibility to identify themselves to Student Disability Services. Identification may take place at admissions or at any time during the student's course of study. All students with disabilities have the responsibility to provide documentation at their own expense in order to be considered for accommodations. After documentation of disability has been approved and accommodations have been proposed, students must give permission for letters to be sent to all instructors in whose classes accommodations are being requested. Instructors review the proposed accommodations. After there is agreement on the appropriate accommodation, students are encouraged to introduce themselves to professors directly and to initiate a dialogue about their particular needs.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: Students who wish to observe religious holidays must inform their instructors within the first two weeks of each semester of their intent to observe the holiday even when the exact date of the holiday will not be known until later so that alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can be made at the earliest opportunity.

به کلاس زبان فارسی خوش آمدید!

Be kelâs-e zabân-e Fârsi khowsh âmadid!