

Syllabus Persian 1001 Fall 2026

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Persian Language and culture

M / W: 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Instructor: Dr. Roya Mesbah

Office hours: M /W 1:30 – 2:30 pm (location TBA)

Or on zoom by prior appointment

Email: rmesbah3@gatech.edu

Course description:

This introductory course will provide students with a basic proficiency in reading and writing, in addition to basics of Persian grammar and syntax. Persian Language is shared with other nations in the region. We will explore the geographical implantation of the language. We insist on the Spoken Language and casual conversation more than the bookish one.

Students will learn to navigate through some of the everyday settings, such as talking about their place of living or work, ordering coffee or food, buying things in a store.

They learn to express their likes or dislikes about food, sports, TV shows, classes ..

By the end of the semester, students should be able to ask and answer simple questions about their life on campus. They will also explore aspects of Iranian everyday life and culture, Iran's History and geography and its neighboring countries, its divers mosaic of people, languages, ethnicities and religions. They should also acquire a good sense of the region's civilization and cultural heritage.

Expectations:

Prerequisites: None

Attendance is required.

The participation grade makes for 10% of the final grade. Attendance is recorded 15 minutes after class begins. Arriving later than 20 minutes counts as half of one absence. **The class allows for 3 unexcused absences. Missing scheduled assessments is requiring a valid excuse.**

Excused Absences are allowed for documented sickness and school recognized extracurricular activities: It is the student's responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to make up for the missed work.

Being systematically late is not acceptable, for any reason.

Academic Integrity and plagiarism policy:

Plagiarism is considered a serious offense. If a student is caught using data from friends or from sources not allowed during that assessment, they would have to leave the exam session and will be dealt with according to the Institute's Code of Honor I recommend everyone to review the Georgia Tech Student Honor Code www.honor.gatech.edu

Office of Disability Services:

We will make accommodations for students with documented disabilities, which must be arranged in advance and in accordance with the Office of disabilities services.

(<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>).

Netiquette:

The Core rule of Netiquette. When communicating via email, or discussion forums,

Please use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar consistent with the academic environment.

Required equipment:

- 1 -A small dry erase board and 3 dry erase pens: Red/ green/ blue or black. (12x14)"
- 2 A divided journal (Divided for class notes and homework).
Notes must be handwritten, not on computer. Please get a spiral notebook to avoid loose papers.

Resources: No textbooks required:

Packages and handouts distributed on Modules (Persian Reading/ writing package + others)

Recommended, but not required for students reference:

Rafiee, Abdi. Colloquial Persian. The complete course for beginners. Routledge Colloquial series, 3rdEdition. London, 2011 (or more recent edition).

Farsi (Persian) Phrasebook and Dictionary. Lonely planet 2014

Farzad, Narguess: Complete Persian (Modern Persian/Farsi). With 2 audio CDs.

Teach yourself series,

Course goals:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1- Communicate at a basic level of conversation in Persian, ask and answer questions about everyday life settings and express likes and dislikes.
- 2- Reading, writing and comprehension of short texts.
- 3- Understand cultural practices and civilizational influences shared in the region.
- 4- Have a global idea of the regions geopolitical situation in terms of human and natural resources.

Persian History, literature and culture.

We will explore aspects of Iranian / Middle Eastern and Central Asian History and geography.

Iran is placed in a unique geographical setting at the crossroad of different civilizations. It's a mosaic of people, ethnicities, languages and religions, who coexisted mostly peacefully for several Millenia. Its culture, music, food, literature, folklore ... reflect well this vast diversity.

History books recommended: (Axworthy's book is easy to read)

Axworthy, Michael. A History of Iran: Empire of the mind. Basic books, 2010

Katouzian, Homa. The Persians: Ancient, Mediaeval and Modern Iran.

Yale University Press New Haven 2010 (a more learned and detailed text).

Evaluation:

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|---|-------------|
| • Class participation + (Journal/ homework) | 20 % |
| • 3 tests (in class sessions) | 30 % |
| • 2 group presentations (1 dialogue +1 research pres.) | 15 % |
| • 1 movie analysis paper (1 page) | 5% |
| • Final written | 25% |

Week 1: Aug 24 – 26

M – Introduction to the course and **Syllabus presentation**.

Workload expectations and assessment modes.

A short history of Persian Language, its linguistic roots and geographical implantation in the region, its evolutions in time.

Greetings in Persian: Introduce yourself!

W- Persian Alphabet: The general rules: Right to left, Upper- and lower-case difference from Western alphabet – the rules of connection- long and short vowels.

More greetings + numbers 1 to 7.

Week 2: Aug 31 – Sept 2

M - More Greetings

Numbers 0 to 12

Alphabet: review the dotted letters: **Be, Pe, Te, Ye, Noon**

New letters Dal and Re. See rules of conct. No upper case.

W- The toothed with a belly: **Sin & Shin**

Numbers 10 to 15

Practice **Dal and Re**

Week 3: Sept 7 – 9

M – **Labor Day – No class**

W – New letters: **Mim – plus Re, Ze and Zhe + Personal pronouns**

Week 4: Sept 14 – 16

M - Letters **Kaaf – He - Che**

Personal pronouns + Verb to Be + Nationalities: Irani, Amrikayi, Hendi ...

W- Practice reading and writing + **Numbers 15 to 20**

Iran on the map: Neighboring countries: Shared ethnicities and languages.

Week 5: Sept 21 – 23

M - To Be + Occupations: Student, professor, engineer, physician

+ Adjectives + New letters Gaaf, He,

W – Verb to Have: Dāshtan

Compound verbs with Have: To like, to love, to care for + some likes and dislikes

Doost dāri? / Meyl dāri? + Letter Laam

At the café: what would you like?

Week 6: Sept 28- 30

M - At the café: Group conversations

Review verbs to be and to have + nationalities + some belongings + adjectives+ occupations

W- *** Test 1 *******

Week 7: Oct 5 -7

M - *** Fall Break - No Class *******

W - The hook shaped letters: Jim – Che + Gāf (Gaaf)

Iran’s Cities and Provinces: Discover Ispahan – The glorious Safavid capital

Week 8: Oct 12 -14

M- Persian Calligraphy: Discover writing with a reed pen and Ink of China

W- More compound verbs with to Have:

To Need: Lāzem dāshtan - To be busy: Kār dāshtan + stuff to buy at the bookstore + Please and Thank you

Colors + Ezafeh: Connecting nouns and Adjectives

Week 9: Oct 19 -21:

M – Expressions of politeness: Many ways to say thank you and please + Verb to Need:

At a bookstore: Excuse me sir, I need ... items

W- Presentations: Present a province or an Iranian city in five minutes.

Verb To Do: Kardan + activities: Eski Kardan+ compound verbs, to live and to work

Numbers 15-20

Week 10: Oct 26 -28

M - Interrogative sentences: Question words

W- Finding a roommate: Interviews

Practice the question words by interviewing people in the class

Presentations: Present 3 cities / Provinces

Week 11: Nov 2 -4

M - Verb to Want + Food items + cutlery

At the restaurant: Practice in group

W - *** Test 2 *******

Week 12: Nov 9 – 11

M – Group Presentations: Important: Oral grade for the class

Numbers: 20 to 50

W - *** Calligraphy *******

Week 13: Nov 16 -18

M – Look at the map: Middle East and Central Asia: Countries, bodies of water, the region’s geopolitical situation.

W - Movie Day: Watch carefully, take notes and be ready to answer 5 questions

Week 14: Nov 23 -25

M – Review / W - Happy Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: Nov 30 – Dec 2

M – *** Test 3 *******

W - Finish group presentations + Review

Week 16: Dec 7 – 9: Reading Day Final Exam date to be announced