

Persian 1A| Fall 2020
University of California, Berkeley
M TU W TH F | 10:00 - 11:00 Am | Remote Instruction



-Instructor: Reza Ghahramani

-Email: reza246@berkeley.edu

-Instruction Mode: **Remote Instruction**

-Schedule: **Internet/ Online**

Book and written resources:

- Purnamdarian, Taqi. *Persian for Foreigners (An Elementary Course)*. Tehran: Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, 2011.
- Course **Reader**
- Farzad, Narguess. *Teach Yourself Modern Persian*. With accompanying CDs. ISBN: 9780071737623
- **Persian in Use**

Additional Materials (useful links):

- Persian of Iran Today provided by University of Texas at Austin:

<https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1498494/pages>

Additional materials including handouts that I will share with you through our class web site.

<https://www.persianlearner.com/pages/English-Persian-dictionary.php>

- **b courses (class web site):** <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1498494/pages>

Course Goals:

Elementary Modern Persian is intended for students with no/ limited background in Persian. In this course, we will address all four foreign language skills—speaking, reading, listening, and writing. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be familiar with very basic grammatical structures and pronunciation of Modern Standard Persian of Iran, to communicate personal information both orally and in writing, to read simple questions and to write logical responses in complete sentences. In addition, Elementary Modern Persian will introduce students to literary language so that they can begin to develop the necessary skills for future studies of classical and modern literature.



Grading breakdown: Grading:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Attendance & active participation | 10% |
| Homework | 10% |
| Journal | 10% |
| Presentation | 10% |
| Quizzes | 30% |
| Final | 30% |
| ----- | |
| total | 100% |

The letter grades assigned for participation will correspond to the following percentage points:

A+ = 99% | **A** = 95% | **A-** = 91% | **B+** = 88% | **B** = 84% | **B-** = 80% | **C** = 75% | **D** = 65% | **F** = 55%

Attendance (10%) is mandatory!

Attending virtual class gives you an opportunity to speak and hear Persian in a genuine and, hopefully, enjoyable setting that no textbook can provide. You are allowed five unexcused absences per semester. Excused absences include documented illnesses or (hopefully nonfatal) accidents, religious holidays, participation in scheduled events as a member of a university-sponsored team, and family emergencies. If you believe that you have an excused absence, be sure to clear it with your instructor. Without the explicit approval of the instructor, every absence is considered unexcused. No make-up work/tests will be allowed for unexcused absences, particularly for those who are skilled in the art of *chaneh-zani*, or bargaining.

→ **Punctuality:** This course does not run on Middle Eastern time. Join the virtual class on time. → **Internet use:** I encourage the use of technology during our remote class when conducive to learning (i.e. using an online dictionary, searching informative web pages or your own documents, etc). If you decide to abuse this privilege by distracting yourself (i.e. checking email, Facebook, etc), you will be marked absent for that day.

Class Participation: You will receive, at the end of the semester, a grade based on your active participation. Different people have different ways of participating, all of which are valid: active listening, thoughtful preparation, sharing a well-formulated idea after a long pause, helping a classmate understand a concept, using Persian, bringing news articles to the virtual class. Your participation grade will not necessarily reflect your skills in Persian but rather your active participation and respect towards your classmates and instructor.

Oral presentation (10%): An organic project that will grow from your ongoing encounter with Persian and conversation with your peers and instructor over the course of the semester.

→ See the rubric below.

Homework (10%): Meaningful writing assignment, not busy work, meant to help you maximize your learning. For your weekly writing assignments, you need to submit your handwritten documents online. You may use the **Adobe Scan**: The mobile app is free and will work on all devices to scan your documents and convert them to a PDF format, or you could create a google doc and share it with your instructor.

I don't accept late submissions.

Quizzes (30%) & Final (30%): Neither will contain any surprises; they will be on materials that we have covered in our virtual class (another reason why attendance is important).

all dates subject to change



Journal (10%): You are required to keep a double-sided journal (Persian-English) in which you write two weekly paragraphs about your point of view on one of the topics during the week: the purpose is for you to start thinking in Persian and writing in Persian of your personal experience. Keep a *notebook* for your journals and be ready to submit the scanned document every **2 weeks**. Your journal will not be graded based on grammar or dictation but on your attempt to express yourself in Persian. A complete journal with at least 15 entries will receive a grade of 100%. Each incomplete or late journal will decrease 10% of your grade. The journals should be written in Persian and English and should document your encounter with Persian.

- **Etiquette:** We adhere to *adab* at all times by being respectful, supportive, and vulnerable.
- **To-catch-a-predator:** I assume any work that bears your name is yours truly. *#integrity*.

Persian Presentation Rubric

In addition to your final exam, you are required to complete a final presentation to highlight the knowledge you have acquired about the Persian language in addition to Persian-speaking cultures. You are free to choose from the number of topics we covered in class, ranging from art, culture, architecture, history, politics, and beyond. You must research your topic in-depth and highlight what you have learned in this past semester.

It will be discussed about presentation logistics over the course of the semester.

all dates subject to change



| Week | Date | Topic | Note |
|------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ۱ | | | |
| ۲ | | | quiz #1 |
| ۳ | | | |
| ۴ | | | quiz #2 |
| ۵ | | | |
| ۶ | | | quiz #3 |
| ۷ | | | |
| ۸ | | presentations | |
| ۹ | | | quiz #4 |
| ۱۰ | | | |
| ۱۱ | | | quiz #5 |
| ۱۲ | | | |
| ۱۳ | | | quiz #6 |
| ۱۴ | | | |
| ۱۵ | | presentations Last day of instruction | journals |
| ۱۶ | | RRR Week last day of class: Dec. 7th | Review + Zoom meeting |
| - | Final: To be announced | | |