

# Persian 405

## Media Persian

Spring 2020 | Tue & Thur 4:30-6 PM | TBD

**Instructor:** Aria Fani

**Email:** ariafani@uw.edu

**Pronoun:** او

**Office hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 4:30-6 PM, or by appointment

**Office:** 233 Denny Hall

**Prerequisite:** Completion of PRSAN 203 or PRSAN 423 *or* my consent. Attendance during the first week of class is mandatory.

**Course Materials:** Purchase textbook from Professional Copy 'n' Print (4200 The Ave, Seattle, WA 98105). Supplemental materials will be provided in PDF format.

**Focus:** In this course, we will cultivate critical reading and writing skills for accessing and interpreting contemporary Persian-language media: newspapers, popular press, and broadcast media. We will engage the Persian-language media not only from Iran, but also from Afghanistan and Tajikistan (in the Cyrillic alphabet) and their growing diasporas.

### Course Objectives:

#### - Main Pedagogical Objective:

- Gaining **familiarity** with registers of Persian used in various media, both in print and online: newspapers, magazines, blogs, TV and YouTube shows, Instagram, and the most predatory surveillance platform ever created, otherwise known as Facebook.

#### - Speaking & Listening

- Initiate and maintain **conversation** and discussion of current news and cultural trends.
  - Develop **listening strategies** for conversations and extended narratives.
  - Cultivate a domain of **vocabulary** that facilitates participation in extended conversation about contemporary topics.

#### - Comprehension

- **Read and understand** the main ideas and details of Persian-language media.

#### - Write

- **Compose** short essays in Persian based on topical subjects in a way that demonstrates competence in standardized grammar and critical thinking

### Why Is This Course Good for Your Life?

Most urban areas in the U.S. are multicultural and multilingual. Unfortunately, the U.S. mainstream media does not reflect our urban internationalism. One very rarely reads or hears about what non-Anglophone media say about our world. It is understandable that the center of gravity for any media remains the national community. However, let's not forget that other countries are far more familiar with our society than we are familiar with theirs. It is vital for our cultural and political discourse to be nourished by a non-isolationist and meaningfully international perspective. *Media Persian* aims to give you the linguistic and cultural tools necessary to access what one of the more active media languages in the world thinks and writes today.

<b>Grading breakdown:</b>	participation	15%
	homework	15%
	journals	10%
	presentations	15%
	quizzes	25%
	final	20%
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	total	100%

**Participation** (15%): In a language course, it is vital that you be there and participate. Office hours may not be used to compensate for absences. If you need accommodation for any personal reason, please talk to me.

- **Punctuality**: being on time to class shows respect & commitment. If you need accommodation, please talk to me. Regular tardiness may result in being marked absent: side effects include but are not limited to low participation grade, cranky instructor, and judgy classmates.



- **Etiquette**: we will adhere to *adab* at all times by being respectful in class, supportive of our peers' inquiries and output, and intellectually vulnerable when discussing culturally and personally sensitive issues. All are welcome in class. By all, I mean whoever may be reading this.

- **Inclusion**: We are a colorful tapestry, like an Afghan *kilim*. All are welcome in class. By all, I mean whoever may be reading this (or to whomever this sentence may be read or translated).

- **Participation**: ask questions, help your peers, voice your interests. *#bethere*.

- **To-catch-a-predator**: I assume any work that bears your name is yours truly. *#integrity*. Seeking help from a tutor or a family member is OK only if they're helping you to polish your grammar and restructure your thoughts. In other words, the composition is by and large your own work.

**Presentation** (15%): → will provide rubric.

**Homework** (15%): will collect in class (almost) every time we meet. Late submissions may be corrected but will not receive credit (unless absence was excused prior to student missing class).

**Quizzes** (30%) and **Final project** (20%): cover what we cover in class. No surprises!

**Journal** (10%): → will provide rubric.

**Final grade** is indeed *final*. No *chaaneb-zani* in the bazaar of grades, please. I will subsequently ignore any such emails.

## The UW Food Pantry

A student should never have to make the choice between buying food or textbooks. The UW Food Pantry helps mitigate the social and academic effects of campus food insecurity. We aim to lessen the financial burden of purchasing food by providing students with access to food and hygiene products at no-cost.

Students can expect to receive 4 to 5 days' worth of supplemental food support when they visit the Pantry. For information including operating hours, location, and additional food support resources visit [uw.edu/anyhungryhusky](http://uw.edu/anyhungryhusky) We can be found on the North side of West Campus' Poplar Hall at the corner of Brooklyn Ave NE and 41st.

## Disability Resources for Students:

If you need any type of accommodation, please contact the [Office of Disability Resources for Students](#). I am more than happy to work with Disability Resources to provide appropriate accommodation for you.

## Self-Care:

There is no learning without self-care. It is important to care for our body, mind, and spirit while we are in school. Toward that end, there are many different kinds of support services on campus, including the Counseling Center, Hall Health, and the IMA. If you are concerned about yourself or a friend who is struggling, Safecampus, at 1-800-685-7233, is a very helpful resource to learn more about how to access campus-based support services. Also, if you ever need someone to talk to, I always make myself available to students as best I can. Please feel free to email me or come by my office.

## Religious Accommodation:

It is the policy of the University of Washington to accommodate student absences to allow students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience or for organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization, so that students' grades are not adversely impacted by the absences. Click [here](#) to read further.

## Civility for All:

I am committed to creating a space that is inclusive to all. By all, I mean whoever may be reading this. The University of Washington is committed to fostering an environment where the free exchange of ideas is an integral part of the academic learning environment. Disruption of classroom discussions can prohibit other students from fully engaging and participating. Any student causing disruption may be asked to leave any class session, and, depending on the severity and frequency of that behavior, an incident report may be filled with Community Standards and Student Conduct. As a condition of enrollment, all students assume responsibility to observe standards of conduct that will contribute to the pursuit of academic goals and to the welfare of the academic community. For more detailed information on these standards, please visit [here](#).

### Resources:

- Persian-English [dictionaries](#)
- Persian-Persian [dictionary](#)
- How to [pronounce](#) words.

### Media:

- Persian-language [media](#) in Iran
- Persian-language media in Afghanistan
  - [8 AM](#)
  - [The Daily Afghanistan](#)
  - [Afghan Paper](#)
  - [Subh-e Kabul](#)
  - [Afghan Radio Programs](#)
- Persian-language media in Tajikistan
  - [Jumhuriyat](#)
  - [Sadoi mardum](#)
  - [Tajik Radio Programs](#)

### Books (suggested):

- Dominic Brookshaw, *Media Persian* (Edinburgh University Press, 2011)
- Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, *What the Persian Media says: A Coursebook* (Routledge, 2014)