



EURA 314 Readings in Eurasian History & Culture (1.0 units*)
EURA 513 Readings in Eurasian History & Culture (1.0 units*)

** One Bryn Mawr College unit is equivalent to four undergraduate semester hours or five graduate semester hours.*

Instructor: TBD

Time: TBD

Location: American Councils Language Center, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Number of hours: 60 (4 academic hours per week, over the course of 15 weeks)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Advanced Readings course develops students' ability to understand, analyze, and respond to complex academic and authentic texts. Through exposure to challenging readings and multimedia materials, students expand their vocabulary, strengthen critical thinking skills, and practice applying advanced reading strategies.

The course covers a range of contemporary topics and requires active participation in discussions, debates, and presentations. Students will also complete independent reading tasks designed to enhance comprehension, synthesis of ideas, and effective communication.

The course prepares students to confidently manage rigorous academic reading demands in both coursework and professional environments and develops students' knowledge of contemporary Persian culture and the Persian world.

OBJECTIVE

Upon the completion of this course, students shall be able to:

- Read and understand complex texts with improved speed, accuracy, and depth.
- Express informed viewpoints during discussions and in written responses.
- Expand and accurately use advanced vocabulary encountered in readings and multimedia materials.
- Evaluate ideas and arguments presented in texts and express informed perspectives in class discussions.
- Demonstrate their academic abilities by preparing summaries, developing critiques, completing comparative reading tasks, and supporting opinions.
- Deliver clear and organized oral presentations demonstrating critical understanding of assigned readings.
- Participate actively in discussions and debates, demonstrating comprehension, critical thinking, and effective communication.

MATERIALS

Students are placed in small groups or individualized tutorials for class, based on proficiency level. Textbooks and course materials will be based according to group.

- Iranian Panorama, 4th Year, Dr. Atefeh Oliai
- Supplemental reading and listening materials from www.gooya.com



- Selected authentic materials

The class content will be supported by selected authentic materials taken from Persian sources, ensuring the development of both language proficiency and cultural worldview.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance Policy:

It is essential that students attend classes and keep up with course work on a daily basis, since the development of speaking skills requires active preparation and participation. Moreover, students who come to class unprepared fall behind and hold up the rest of the class. For this reason, attendance is mandatory: Repeated or extreme tardiness may also be counted as unexcused absence.

Homework:

Missed homework assignments will also lower your final grade. Homework must be submitted on the day that it is due and will be returned to students on the following day (late work will be accepted only by arrangement with the instructor).

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Class attendance is a critical part of progress in language and students are expected to come on time and prepared for each class.

Individual student work includes reading of assigned literary works, historical, current and interesting texts, daily newspapers; working on spelling and grammar exercises, as well as homework and linguistic exercises assigned by the professor; essay writing, student creating and keeping up with their own pocket dictionaries based upon vocabulary learned in class.

Grade Calculation

Category	% Points
Class participation & attendance	20
Homework	20
Oral presentations	15
Written compositions	15
Mid-term and final presentations/projects	30
TOTAL	100

Grade Scale

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
4.0 Scale	4	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.0	0.0
% Points	93–100	90–92	87–89	83–86	80–82	77–79	73–76	70–72	60–69	0–59

COURSE CONTENT (SUBJECT TO CHANGE*)

Based on our previous experiences, we would like to emphasize that changes to the curriculum provided below are inevitable and by design. Ultimately, which topics will be covered and how much time will be dedicated to them is at the discretion of language faculty and may be adjusted over the course of the program according to the student's language proficiency, classroom performance, and academic interests. We kindly ask to take this into consideration.

Week	Topics	Pages	Hours
1	Society: "Yahya". Listening: Afghan Child laborers.	7- 15	4
2	Society: Migrants. Women migrants. Listening: Child migrants.	16-22	4
3	Culture and Art: Music: Iranian classic music.	23-33	4
4	History: Religion: Religion before Islam.	34 -47	4
5	Literature: The founder of modern poetry in Iran."	48-54	4
6	History: The characteristics of the Islamic Revolution of Iran	55 -71	4
7	History: The period when the Shia gain strength	72 – 83	4
8	Review. Mid-term exam.		4
9	Society: Women and a patriarchal society	84- 91	4
10	Politics: Freedom of journalism.	92 -102	4
11	Art: Modern and contemporary art in Iran.	103-118	4
12	Story: Goose kebab.	119-131	4
13	Economy: Economy of Iraq before and after the war.	132-138	4
14	Politics: US and Iranian relations.	139-146	4
15	Review and Final exam.		4