



|                                          |              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| EURA 320 Intensive Conversation: Persian | (1.0 units*) |
| EURA 515 Intensive Conversation: Persian | (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:** 72 (9 academic hours per week, over the course of 8 weeks)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Advanced Persian Conversation course is designed to strengthen students' oral proficiency through intensive practice with authentic materials. The course emphasizes fluency, accuracy, and the ability to express complex ideas across a wide range of abstract topics. Students engage with authentic audio and video materials, Persian media sources, interviews, and excerpts from contemporary cultural and political discussions.

Class sessions focus on expanding students' active vocabulary, improving pronunciation and intonation, and developing the ability to sustain extended discourse in formal and informal settings. Students participate in debates, problem solving tasks, role plays, spontaneous speaking activities, and thematic discussions on social, political, cultural, and economic issues relevant to Iran and the Persian speaking world.

The course also aims to enrich learners' cultural understanding of Iran and other Persian speaking regions.

### OBJECTIVE

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

- Speak with greater accuracy and use culturally appropriate formal and informal registers.
- Discuss a range of concrete as well as abstract topics with confidence.
- Expand and actively use an enriched vocabulary.
- Improve their listening comprehension skills through exposure to authentic materials.
- Recognize, understand, and incorporate cultural references in conversation.
- Produce extended, coherent discourse on a variety of themes.

### 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.

- Persian Vocabulary Acquisition, Advanced Level by Mahnaz Askari
- Selected video and audio materials
- Authentic materials (Reading and Listening)
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/pargar/>



Content of classes will be complemented through the usage of adequate literature, literary texts, and books that will be prepared by the instructor with instructions given by the instructor and will include creative exercises and usage of appropriate media such as video, music, movies, theater etc.

## **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, & homework | 20       |
| Role plays                                  | 20       |
| Oral presentations                          | 20       |
| Discussions                                 | 20       |
| Midterm and final presentation              | 20       |
| 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 change 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    | Introduction. Country. Iran. Comparing countries.                                                             | pp. 12-15                                                                                                            | 5     |
|      | Politics and Government. Speaking practice: What is Democracy. Where is Iran heading?                         | pp. 16-19; BBC Pargar                                                                                                | 4     |
| 2    | Politics and Government. (Continued). Types of Government. Political ideologies. Political relations.         | pp. 20-23                                                                                                            | 6     |
|      | Law and Social crime. Discussion: Is law equal for everyone?                                                  | pp. 24-27                                                                                                            | 3     |
| 3    | The Future of Iran — Conversation between Mousa Ghaninejad & Hamidreza Jalaeipour                             | برنامه آزاد<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEv8lCXnKdk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEv8lCXnKdk</a> | 3     |
|      | Social changes. Social transformations. Are social changes the same around the world,                         | pp. 28-31                                                                                                            | 6     |
| 4    | Video/Discussion: Is the Threat of War Still Present? — Rahman Ghahremanpour & Mehdi Kheratian                | برنامه آزاد<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPpIINRY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPpIINRY</a>       | 3     |
|      | Economy & Globalization. Economics and commerce. How globalization affects world economies and trade.         | pp. 36-39                                                                                                            | 6     |
| 5    | Health & Nutrition. Nutrition and public health. Healthy food.                                                | pp. 44-47                                                                                                            | 4     |
|      | Persian cooking.                                                                                              | pp. 48-51                                                                                                            | 3     |
|      | <b>Midterm test</b>                                                                                           |                                                                                                                      | 2     |
| 6    | Environment. Pollution and environmental issues. Balancing economic development and environmental protection  | pp. 40-43                                                                                                            | 6     |
|      | Inflation or Recession? — Abbas Dadjoo-e Tavakoli & Mohsen Yazdanpanah                                        | برنامه آزاد<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgnB7vI86Z0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgnB7vI86Z0</a> | 3     |
| 7    | Religion. Religion 1: Introduction to religions. Different religions, Religion and state in the Sassanian Era | pp. 52-59                                                                                                            | 6     |
|      | Video/Discussion: Artificial Intelligence and Our Future — Pargar                                             | برنامه پرگار<br>سایت بی بی سی                                                                                        | 3     |
| 8    | Art & Culture. Topic: Art and artistic works. Handicrafts                                                     | pp. 76-83                                                                                                            | 4     |
|      | Discussion: Philosophy of music                                                                               |                                                                                                                      | 3     |
|      | Review of the material covered.                                                                               |                                                                                                                      | 3     |
|      | <b>Final test</b>                                                                                             |                                                                                                                      | 2     |