Persian Language and Literature

The Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures offers a major and a minor in Persian. As a major in Persian, students can expect to gain proficiency in the language, study the area’s literary and cultural landmarks, and gain familiarity with Near Eastern history and civilizations.

Language Placement: Placement tests are required for all students entering our language programs. Students may be eligible for up to 6 units of back-credit based on advanced placement and successful completion of the recommended course. Native speakers are not eligible for back-credit; evidence of secondary or post-secondary study of the language is required. Any units received from back-credit cannot be counted toward the major or minor.

Phone: 314/935-5110 or 314/935-8567  
E-mail: jinetc@arts.wustl.edu  
Departmental website: http://jinetc.wustl.edu

For a list of affiliated faculty, please visit the Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies faculty page.

The Major in Persian Language and Literature

Prerequisites

- Beginning Persian I (JINE 116D), Beginning Persian II (Pers 117D), Intermediate Persian I (Pers 216D), and Intermediate Persian II (Pers 217D) — whether by course work or placement

Required courses (30 Units)

- Introduction to Islamic Civilization (JINE 210C)
- History, Text and Identity: Introduction to Jewish Civilization (JINE 208F)
- 12 units from 300- or 400-level courses in Persian language
- 6 units from 300- or 400-level courses in Islamic studies and Persian literature and culture
- 3 additional elective units at the 300- or 400-level in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies
- Capstone Seminar (Pers 4001)

Senior honors

- Pers 488, Pers 489 + thesis (A student must take capstone even when writing a senior honors thesis).

Additional Information

Regulations for language and culture majors

- Two semesters of the field language must be taken at Washington University.
- 300- or 400-level courses of a language may be counted toward the major.
- A maximum of 12 units from 300- or 400-level language courses can be counted toward the major.
- Note that 300- or 400-level courses that include the study of texts in the original language may be considered courses about history, literature, or religious studies rather than language courses.
- Back-credit granted for language courses does not count for the major.
- Students enrolled in WU study abroad programs (during the regular academic semester) can earn a maximum of 9 units subject to review by adviser and DUS. Summer programs and transfer courses can be granted as much as 6 units subject to review by adviser and DUS. However, a limit of 9 units in total can be applied to the major, whether the units are earned in study abroad, summer programs, or transfer courses.
- No credit will be given for courses taken outside the department other than those which are cross-listed.
- A minimum of 27 units is required for the major. 21 of those must be from 300- or 400-level courses.
- Double counting courses: a maximum of 3 units used for the major can be counted toward another major or minor.
- To be eligible for Senior Honors a student must maintain a GPA of 3.65 through the sixth semester.
- A Capstone Seminar may be taken in junior or senior year.
- Students have to maintain an average of B in all courses for the major. A grade of B- must be earned in each language course in order to advance to the next level.
- No pass/fail course can count toward either prerequisites or major.

Study Abroad: Students majoring in Persian are encouraged to participate in the Washington University Study Abroad program. The university currently sponsors preapproved programs of study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the University of Haifa, Aalim Arabic Program in Morocco, Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, and the American University of Cairo. Students may enroll in summer programs anytime at their discretion; however, semester abroad is usually during the junior year and after a minimum of one year of language study at Washington University.

Senior Honors: Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies majors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.65 or higher after six semesters are eligible to apply for candidacy for departmental senior honors. Once they receive departmental approval, candidates must satisfactorily complete a senior honors thesis in order to be considered for departmental honors. Please visit the department web page for further information and requirements at
http://jinelc.wustl.edu/undergraduate/senior-honors-guidelines-and-evaluation-form

The Minor in Persian Language and Literature

Prerequisites

• Beginning Persian I (Pers 116D) and Beginning Persian II (Pers 117D) — whether by course work or placement

Required courses (18 Credits)

• Introduction to Islamic Civilization (JINE 210C)
• 9 units from 200-, 300-, or 400-level courses in Persian language
• 6 units from 300- or 400-level courses in Islamic studies and Persian literature and culture

Additional Information

Regulations for all language and culture minors

• Two semesters of the language must be taken at Washington University.
• No more than 12 credit units can be from language courses.
• Note that 300- or 400-level courses that include the study of texts in the original language may be considered courses about history, literature, or religious studies rather than language courses.
• Preapproved WU study abroad programs during the regular academic semester, summer programs, and transfer courses can earn a maximum of 3 credits subject to review by adviser and DUS.
• Back-credit granted for language courses does not count for the minor.
• No credits will be given to courses taken outside the department other than those which are cross-listed.
• A minimum of 18 credits is required for minor.
• Double counting courses: a maximum of 3 credits used for the minor can be counted for another major or minor.
• Students have to maintain an average of B for the minor. A grade of B- must be earned in each language course in order to advance to the next language course.
• No pass/fail course can count toward either prerequisites or minor.

L47 Pers 116D Beginning Persian I
Introduction to modern Persian; concentrates on rapidly developing basic skills in speaking, reading, writing and understanding modern Persian. Five class hours a week and additional drill or laboratory hours as assigned by instructor. Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L47 Pers 117D Beginning Persian II
Introduction to modern Persian; concentrates on rapidly developing basic skills in speaking, reading, writing and understanding modern Persian. Five class hours a week and additional drill or laboratory hours as assigned by instructor. Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L47 Pers 216D Intermediate Persian I
Rapid development of skills in speaking, reading, writing and understanding modern Persian. Reading of annotated, classical and modern texts; elementary composition. Prerequisite: Pers 117D or equivalent. Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L47 Pers 217D Intermediate Persian II
A continuation of Persian 216D. Emphasis on enhancing skills in speaking, reading, writing and understanding modern Persian. Reading of annotated classical and modern texts; elementary composition. Prerequisite: Pers 216D or equivalent. Five class hours a week with additional drill or laboratory hours as assigned. Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: IS

L47 Pers 316 Advanced Persian I
Selected readings from classical Persian prose and poetry. Prose readings from historical, mystical and ethical literature by such authors as Bayhaghi, 'Attar and Sa'di. Poetry from significant lyrical genres, such as qasida and ghazal, as well as examples from heroic and romantic epics. Continued emphasis on developing skills in writing, speaking and understanding Persian. Frequent use of traditional music, slides and videos to enhance cultural awareness. Prerequisite: Pers 217D or equivalent. Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L47 Pers 317 Advanced Persian II: Readings from Modern Literature
Selected readings from modern Persian prose and poetry. The section on prose includes readings from key 19th- and 20th-century texts carrying the debate on social and literary reform. Examples from novels, short stories and plays by such authors as Hedayat and Sa'di studied. Poetry selections include works of traditional figures, such as Iraj Mirza. Focus on reformists such as Nima, Shamlu and Forough. Class discussion emphasized and the use of music, slides and videos continued. Emphasis on developing skills in writing, speaking and understanding Persian. Prerequisite: Pers 316 or equivalent. Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H FA: Lit
L47 Pers 361 City of Peace: Baghdad in Medieval Times (ca. 762–1250)
Same as JINE 361
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L47 Pers 4001 Capstone Seminar
Same as JINE 4001
Credit 3 units.

L47 Pers 425 Topics in Persian Literature
The richness and vigor of classical Persian literature continue into the 20th century. Economic growth, political change and modernization of education characterize the modern period. The literature produced in these circumstances provides a fascinating example of stimulation, struggle and change in an age-old literary tradition. The present course investigates the lively moments of this engagement with modernity in the novels, short stories and poems of such writers as Hedayat, Daneshvar, Sepehri and Farrukhzad. (All readings in translation.)
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H FA: Lit

L47 Pers 456 Topics in Classical Persian Literature and Culture
An in-depth study of literary/cultural concepts, generic patterns or intellectual currents in Persian literature from the 10th to 18th centuries. Persian primary sources compose the bulk of the reading. Each semester, a certain genre, time period, literary/intellectual figure or text forms the main focus. Advanced reading knowledge of Persian required. Prerequisite: senior standing.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD FA: Lit

L47 Pers 457 Topics in Modern Persian Literature and Culture
An in-depth study of the modern developments in literary/cultural concepts, generic patterns or intellectual currents in Persian literature from 18th century to present. Persian primary sources compose the bulk of the reading. Each semester, a certain genre, time period, literary/intellectual figure or text forms the main focus. Advance reading knowledge of Persian required. Prerequisite: senior standing.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD FA: Lit

L47 Pers 488 Independent Work for Senior Honors
Prerequisite: senior standing.
Credit 3 units.

L47 Pers 489 Independent Work for Senior Honors
This course is taken in the spring semester. Prerequisite: senior standing, eligibility for honors and permission of the department.

L47 Pers 4972 Guided Readings in Persian
Prerequisites: senior standing and permission of the instructor and the department chair.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units. A&S: LA

L47 Pers 4982 Guided Readings in Persian
Prerequisites: senior standing and permission of the instructor and the department chair.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units. A&S: LA