



COURSES

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Michelle Quay

Elementary Persian I—II
MDESW1701 (2 sections)

Intermediate Persian I-II
MDESW2701 (2 sections)

Advanced Persian I-II
MDESW4710

Reading and Grammar Review in Persian
MDESW4712

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Columbia University

Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

Persian Language Program



Learning Persian Language and Literature

at
Columbia University





Why Learn Persian?

Persian is an important language of the Middle East and Central Asia. It is known as Farsi in Iran, Dari in Afghanistan and Tajik in Tajikistan. It has about 110 million speakers worldwide, ranking it among the world's 20 most widely spoken languages.

Although it is written in Arabic alphabets, Persian is related to languages of northern India and, more distantly, the major European languages including English.

How?

In Class

- “Communicative” and need based “Deep” approaches
- Project-based learning
- Cultural programs, movies, songs, news, and video clips
- Native guest speakers in class
- Authentic sources: newspapers, web pages, etc.
- Journal writing and voice recording
- Vocabulary games
- Friendly atmosphere

Outside

- Conversation hours
- Coffee hours
- Movie nights
- Cultural trips
- Persian dinners and launches

There are numerous reasons why you should study Persian:

Studying Persian will introduce you to a rich and diverse culture that produced major epic and Sufi poets such as Ferdowsi, Rumi and Hafez, exquisite miniature painting and world-class films. Since Persian has not changed significantly in over a millennium, the basic grammar for the classical and modern forms of the language is virtually the same and is relatively easy to learn.

Until just a century ago, Persian was also the cultural lingua franca in South Asia and is thus important for the study of the history of that region.

