

Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

**Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Hagerty Hall 300
Ohio State University
Persian Culture 2241 (3 Credits)**

Instructor:
Location:
Time:
Office:
Office Hours:

PERSIAN CULTURE

This course considers Iranian society and culture from the point of view of history, geography, life style, supplemented by insights provided through fiction, film, and scientific articles. Topics will include rural society, urban life, women issues, everyday life, religious beliefs, national rituals and their interactions. The course will emphasize the subject of diversity in Iran.

Objectives

During this course of study students learn about the complexity of Iranian culture and the peoples' life styles. Alongside increasing their familiarity with modern Iranian culture and society, students develop their awareness of Iranian preoccupations and life styles.

By the end of the course, students should be able to

1. describe some of the key figures of Iranian culture
2. compare, contrast, and critique various perspectives and assumptions on modern Iran
3. write critical responses to various representations of Iranian culture, whether in print, film, or other media
4. demonstrate awareness of the Iranian culture diversities that have shaped our understanding of Iran as a unique historical phenomenon.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will develop the ability to understand the frameworks of modern Persian culture through its historical, geographical, religious, national, and literary background.

Instructional Methods

The course consists of lectures by the instructor, as well as in-class discussion and presentations by the students.

Course Requirements

- Class attendance is essential. More than three unexcused absences will affect your attendance and participation score.

- Five reading responses (at least 350 words) will be due on assigned Mondays. You should select one of the discussed topics in the class and write the reading response including a very brief summary of the topic and your detailed opinion about it.
- There will be four pop quizzes during the semester.
- Every student should submit his/her three discussion questions about the assigned readings in Dropbox every Wednesday before 1 PM.
- Participating in class discussions is necessary.
- Every student should have two five to seven- minute in-class presentations during the course.
- A final paper proposal (at least 300 words, due on April 10th) and a final paper (at least 2500 words, due on April 26th) on a related topic to course materials and assignments are required. The paper topic will be selected in consultation with the instructor.
- Every student should present his/her final paper in class.

Students are expected to have read the assigned texts prior to coming to class so as to be able to participate in the classroom discussion.

Course Materials

- Daneshvar, Simin. *Savushun: A Novel about Modern Iran*. Trans. M. R. Ghanoonparvar
- The course readings will be from diverse online and internet sources. Students should read or watch all materials assigned by the instructor and be ready for participating and discussing in the classroom.

Grading

Four Pop Quizzes	10 %
Five Reading Response Papers	15 %
Two In-Class Presentations	10%
Ten Sets of Discussion Questions	15%
Attendance	10%
Participation in Class Discussions	10%
Final Presentation	10%
Final Paper Proposal	5 %
Final Paper	15 %

Total **100%**

Note: Ohio State does not offer the grades of A+ and D-. You earn no points for an E or EN, but the hours are calculated into your grade point average. (An EN grade indicates that, at some point during the semester, you stopped attending the class.)

Pop Quizzes:

Pop quizzes based on the readings assigned for that day will be given randomly throughout the semester. The questions will be “objective,” meaning that if you have read carefully, you should be able to answer every question correctly. You will not be allowed to make up quizzes unless you have an officially excused absence.

Reading Response Papers:

Over the course of the semester, you will write five short responses to a reading assignment of your choosing. In your paper, you should reflect on what it is that you think the author is trying to convey and how effective you find his or her work. You may find some of the following questions helpful to get started: What question is this author attempting to answer? Is the author presenting an argument? If so, what kinds of assumptions and biases shape the argument? Is the argument convincing? Who is the intended audience? If the author does not formulate an explicit argument, what is the work trying to do? What is the author’s perspective? Does this perspective differ from your own? How?

Additional Guidelines:

1. Response papers are due on assigned Mondays by 5:00 pm. Upload your paper directly to the course website as either a Word document or (preferably) a PDF. Late submissions will be penalized by one point.
2. You may respond to any of the topics for that three week period.
3. Your response papers will be graded on a three point scale. A 3.0 paper must meet the following standards:
 1. The paper clearly states the argument, perspective, or theme, as you understand it in the work.
 2. The paper presents your original, analytical reflections on the work.
 3. Grammatical and spelling errors do not distract from the content of your writing.

Student Presentation

Every student should have two five to seven minute presentation during the semester and a twelve to fifteen- minute final presentation at the end of the course.

Final Paper Grading Rubric

- Total grade (100%) – Has a catchy intro; a clear thesis; flawless grammar; facts relevant to argument; a mention of six sources – either author name or article name; has a sound conclusion; flows well – good transitions, etc.
- 90% points - Is missing one of the first requirements but definitely contains a good intro, thesis, four or five sources – might be a bit iffy on grammar at one or two points and might have a problem with a transition or two.
- 80% - Is missing two of the first requirements but definitely contains a thesis – usually cites three sources and has some noticeable problems with structure, transitions, etc.

- 70% - Is missing at least three of the requirements for receiving a total grade. Problems in this category include notable factual errors. Cites two sources. Lacks a clear thesis and has poor grammar that detracts from one's ability to read the easy.
- 60% - Lacks a clear thesis, does not contain relevant factual information. Has no reference to sources.

50% - Only wrote half of the assigned words. Has no thesis and contains no relevant information. You are unsure if they are actually answering the question that their answer is supposed to respond to.

Additional Information on Attendance

- There will be an attendance sheet passed out in class at every class session. Please sign it to indicate your presence in class. More than two unexcused absence will affect your attendance and participation score (worth 15% of your final grade). Five or more absences will notably affect your final grade (by a third of a grade level if you have five absences, i.e., from A to A-, etc). If you miss class (regardless of whether this is excused or unexcused) please make sure to ask your colleagues (but *not* your instructor) to provide information as to what was covered in your absence. Covering the class material that you have missed on your own will be your responsibility and not your instructor's.
- Excused absences include documented illnesses or accidents, religious holidays, participation in scheduled events as a member of a university-sponsored organization, and family emergencies. If you believe you are going to have an excused absence be sure to clear it with your instructor. Absence that fall into one of the listed categories for excused absences but that are not cleared with your instructor (ideally prior to the date of the absence) will be considered unexcused.
It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absence for religious observances in advance.

Student with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability, please register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations, so they may be implemented in a timely fashion. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Disability Services at 614-292-3307 or slds@osu.edu.

Academic Plagiarism

Many incidents of plagiarism result from students' lack of understanding about what constitutes plagiarism. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative efforts. Based on OSU policy, at any stage of the writing process, all academic work submitted to the teacher must be a result of a student's own thought, research or self-expression. When a student submits work purporting to be his or her own, but which in any way borrows organization, ideas, wording or anything else from a source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, he/she is engaging in plagiarism. You are expected to familiarize yourself with OSU's policy on plagiarism.

Course Plan

- The course syllabus is subject to change. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to determine if changes have been made to the syllabus and or course schedule.
- You are responsible for knowing all readings, assignments, due-dates, etc., that are listed in this syllabus and announced in class. Keep this course syllabus with you and refer to it frequently.
- The first class will feature an introduction to the course. The reading assignments for each of the subsequent weeks are outlined in the table below.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week One: January 11 & 13 Introduction to the course

Introduction to the course, Geography of Iran

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/geography-i>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/geography-ii>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/geography-iii>

Week Two: January 18 & 20 History of Iran

Qajar

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/historiography-viii>

Pahlavi

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/historiography-ix>

Islamic Republic

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/historiography-x>

Film: Bashu, the Little Stranger by Bahram Beizaie

Week Three: January 25 & 27 Religions, Islam, Shiism

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/iran-ix2-islam-in-iran>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/iran-ix22-mongol-and-timurid-periods>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/iran-ix23-shiism-in-iran-since-the-safavids>

First Reading Response Paper Due: Monday January 30th, 5 PM in Dropbox

Week Four: February 1 & 3 Religious Rituals in Iran

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/asura>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/tazia>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/tazia-of-qazvin>

Week Five: February 8 & 10 Classical Persian Literature

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/ferdowsi-i>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/sadi-sirazi>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/hafez-ii>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/rumi-jalal-al-din-04-teachings>

Rustam and Sohrab, The Book of Kings by Hakim Ferdosi

http://www.iranchamber.com/literature/shahnameh/08rostan_sohrab.php

Simorgh, an ancient Persian fairy tale

http://www.iranchamber.com/culture/articles/simorgh_ancient_fairy_tale.php

Week Six: February 15 & 17 Cultural Reflections in Modern Persian Poetry

Ahmad Shamlou

http://www.iranchamber.com/literature/ashamlou/ahmad_shamlou.php

“Common Love” by Ahmad Shamlou

<http://prairieschooner.unl.edu/fusion/secrets/common-love>

Siavash Kasrai

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kasrai-siavash-marxist-poet>

“Arash, the Archer” by Siavosh Kasrai

http://myhero.com/hero.asp?hero=Arash_LC_Mehregan_IR_07

Forough Farrokhzad

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/farrokhzad-forugh-zaman>

“Someone Who Is Not Like Anyone” by Forugh Farrokhzad

<http://www.foroughfarrokhzad.org/selectedworks/selectedworks2.php>

Students’ First Presentations

Second Reading Response Paper Due: Monday February 20th, 5 PM in Dropbox

Week Seven: February 22 & 24 Everyday Life in Persian Fiction

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/suvashun>

S. Daneshvar, *Savushun* (A Modern Persian Novel)

Week Eight: March 1 & 3 Urban Life in Iran

Modern Urbanization and Modernization in Persia

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cities-iv>

Urban Informal Settlements

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cities-06-settlements>

FILM: “Tehran Has No More Pomegranates”

<https://www.idfa.nl/industry/tags/project.aspx?id=3c6d5537-d10c-41c0-8484-00d359ca1993>

**Week Nine: March 8 & 10
History of Iranian Cinema**

Iranian Cinema and Iranian Family

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cinema-i>

Feature Films

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cinema-ii>

Documentary Films

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cinema-iii>

Film: "A Separation" by Asghar Farhadi

Third Reading Response Paper Due: Friday March 10, 11'59 PM in Dropbox

Week Ten March 13 & 17

SPRING BREAK

Happy Now Ruz!

Week Eleven: March 22 & 24

Food, Dance, and Music

Food

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cooking#pt3>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/ab-gust>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/celow-kabab-a-popular-persian-dish-which-consists-of-cooked-rice-celow-see-berenj-and-a-variety-of-broiled-kabab-se>

Dance

Audio <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/5-22-Raqs-Dozale-va-Tombak>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/dance-raqs>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/djanbazian-sarkis--ballet-master>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cub-bazi-stick-game-also-raqs-e-cub-stick-dance-a-category-of-folk-dance-found-all-over-persia-hamada-and-dist>

Music

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/bidad>

Students' Second Presentations

Week Twelve: March 29 & 31

Women in Iran

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/women-shiism>

Male and female relationships and codes of behavior

http://www.iranchamber.com/culture/articles/male_female_codes_behavior.php#sthas
[h.Y8TwXIaE.dpuf](http://www.iranchamber.com/culture/articles/male_female_codes_behavior.php#sthas)

Iranian Women and Contemporary Memoirs
http://www.iranchamber.com/culture/articles/iranian_women_contemporary_memoirs.php#sthash.m2xZK5ng.dpuf

Film: Two Women by Tahmineh Milani

Fourth Reading Response Paper Due: Monday April 3rd, 5 PM in Dropbox

Week Thirteen: April 5 & 7

Iranian Folklore

FESTIVALS

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/festivals-index>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/nowruz-index>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/4-14-Newroz>

Games

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/bazi-games>

Doa Nevisi

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/doa-nevisi>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/charms-lat>

Final Paper Proposal, 300 Words, Due on Monday, April 10th

Week Fourteen: April 12 & 14 Birth, Marriage, and Death in Iran

Birth

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/children-ii>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/children-iv>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/children-v>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/children-vii>

Marriage

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/aqd-marriage-contrucl-rnarriagc-construct-ceremony>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/arusi-the-secular-wedding-celebration-which-follows-the-wedding-contract-ceremony-aqd-q>

Death

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/burial-iii>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/burial-iv>

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/burial-v>

Week Fifteen: April 19 & 21

Students' Final Presentations

Fifth Reading Response Paper Due: Sunday April 23th, 5 PM in Dropbox

Final Paper Due: April 26th, 11:59 PM