

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.

Persian Literature in Translation (3 Units)
PERSIAN 2701
Autumn 2017

Instructor:
Email:
Location:
Time:
Office:
Office Hours:

Course Description

Persian 2701 is a survey of classical and modern Persian literature through the study of literary works that have been translated into English. It examines the literary works of a number of well-known Iranian classical poets such as Abulqasem Ferdowsi, Farid Aldin Attar, Mosleh aldin Sa'adi Shirazi, and some of contemporary Persian authors including Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh, Sadeq Hedayat, Samad Behrangi, Zoia Pirzad, and Fariba Vafi who produced some of the most enduring and important fictions in Iran's modern history. The focus of the first part of this course is mostly on fictional representations of some classical categories such as Iranian epics, mysticism, and realism. In the second part, the course focuses on the fictional representations of some concepts including language purification, commitment literature, feminist discourse, Islamic fiction, as well as war and prison literature.

Objectives

During this course of study students learn about the complexity of literary contents and forms of classical and modern Persian literature. Alongside increasing their familiarity with Persian literature, students develop their awareness of Iranian culture and history as well as Persian literary diversity.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will develop the ability to understand conceptual frameworks of classical and modern Persian literature through its cultural and historical background.

Instructional Methods

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

General Education (GE) Goals and Expected Learning Outcomes

Goals

Students evaluate significant texts in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; and critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing.

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students analyze, interpret, and critique significant literary works.

- Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.

Course Requirements

- Class attendance is essential. More than two unexcused absences will affect your attendance and participation score.
- Discussion Questions: For every week, you have to prepare one relevant and thoughtful discussion question. After my presentation, I will put at least 6 of your discussion questions on the screen and we will discuss them.
- Reading Responses: A weekly reading response (200 - 250 words) will be due on every Tuesday. You should select one of the assigned readings in the class and write the reading response including a very brief summary of the reading and your detailed opinion about it.
- Short Presentations: Every student should have two five to seven- minute in-class presentations during the course.
- Final Paper: A final paper proposal (at least 300 words, due on November 17th) and a final paper (at least 2500 words, due on December 11th) on a related topic to course materials and assignments are required. The paper topic will be selected in consultation with the instructor.
- Final presentation: Every student should represent 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 Evaluation

Attendance and participation	15%
Class discussions	10%
2 in-class presentations	10%
10 Weekly reading responses	20%
Final paper proposal (November 17th)	5%
Final paper presentation	10%
Final paper (December 11 th)	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A = 100% - 94% A- = 93% - 91% B+ = 90% - 89% B = 88 % - 83% B- = 82% - 80% C+ = 79% - 78% C = 77% - 73% C- = 72% - 71%

Note: Ohio State does not offer the grades A+ and D-. You earn no points from an E or an 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).

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.

Reading Assignments

The course reading will be from diverse Persian fictional sources. Students should read all materials assigned by the instructor and be ready for participating and discussing in the classroom.

Print Sources

- Vafi, Fariba. *My Bird*. ISBN-10: 0815609442, ISBN-13: 978-0815609445
- Attar, Farid aldin. Sholeh Wolpe, *The Conference of the Birds*, ISBN-13: 978-0393355543
- Ferdowsi, Abolqasem. Rostam: *Tales of Love and War from the Shahnameh*, ISBN-10:0143105892
- Pirzad, Zoya. *The Space Between Us*. Trans. Amy Motlagh. ISBN-10: 1851689974 ISBN-13: 978-1851689972
- Talattof, Kamran. *Politics of Writing in Iran: A History of Modern Persian Literature*. ISBN-10: 0815628196, ISBN-13: 978-0815628194

Also, some materials from different Persian textbooks will be provided in the course canvas and/or hand out during 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 essay.
- 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.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335--- 5--- 487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>)

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.

Critical Information

- Weekly reading responses should be submitted in canvas by 5 PM every Monday.
- Schedule your two in-class presentations with the instructor at least a week ahead.
- Final paper proposal should be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday November 17th.
- Final paper should be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday December 10th.

Week 1 (Aug 23 & 25)

Introduction

A Brief History of Iran

CLASSICAL PERSIAN FICTION

Week 2 & 3 (Aug 30 - Sep 8th)

Persian Fiction: Traditional Forms

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

Iranian Epics

Rostam: Tales of Love and War from the Shahnameh

Week 4 & 5 (Sep 13 - 22)

Persian Mysticism

Jan Rypka, *The Great Persian Sufis: Sana'i, Attar, Molavi* (Available in PDF)

Farid aldin Attar, Sholeh Wolpe, *The Conference of the Birds*

Special Event: Iranian Cinematic Classics: The Lizard

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 - 6:30 pm, Room 165, Thompson Library

Week 6 (Sep 27 & 29)

Realism of Sa'adi Shirazi

Golestan-e Saadi

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

Students' First Presentations

MODERN PERSIAN FICTION

Week 7 (Oct 4 & 6)

Emergence of New Fictional Forms

Modern Persian Fiction, Historical Background

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/fiction-ia-historical-background>

The Novel

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/fiction-iibthe-novel>

The Short Story

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/fiction-iic-the-short-story>

The Politics of Writing in Iran, Chapter 1 (Introduction)

Week 8 (Oct 11)

Language Purification

- “Persian is sugar” by Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh, Available Online at <http://www.angelfire.com/rnb/bashiri/Stories/persiansugar.html>
- “Three Drops of Blood” by Sadeq Hedayet, Available Online at <http://www.angelfire.com/rnb/bashiri/Stories/3Drops.html>
- Sadeq Hedayat: His Life and Works, Available Online at <http://www.almabooks.com/excerpts/threedrops.pdf>, Pages: V –X
- *The Politics of Writing in Iran*, Chapter 2

Special Event: Iranian Cinematic Classics: The Salesman

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - 6:30pm, Room 165, Thompson Library

Fall Break, Oct 13

Week 9 (Oct 18 & 20)

Commitment Literature

- Samad Behrangi: His Life and Works, available online at: http://www.iranchamber.com/literature/sbehrangi/samad_behrangi.php
- “The Little Black Fish” by Samad Behrangi http://www.iranchamber.com/literature/sbehrangi/works/the_little_black_fish.php
- Dabashi, Hamid. “The Poetics of Politics: Commitment in Modern Persian Literature”, PDF file available
- *The Politics of Writing in Iran*, Chapter 3

Week 10 & 11 (Oct 25 –Nov 3)

Feminist Literature

- *The Politics of Writing in Iran*, Chapter 5
- Vafi, Fariba. *My Bird*
- Pirzad, Zoya. *The Space Between Us*. Trans. Amy Motlagh.

- Nafici, Azar. “The Quest for the "real" woman in the Iranian novel: Representations of privacy in literature and film” – available online at: http://www.iranchamber.com/literature/articles/quest_real_woman_iranian_novel2.php

Week 12 (Nov 8)

Students’ Second Presentations

Week 13 (Nov 15 -17)

Literary Reactions to the 1979 Iranian Revolution

Satrapi, Marjaneh. *Persepolis* (Movie)

Final Paper Proposal Due

Week 14

22- 24 November: No Classes, Thanks Giving

Week 15 (Nov 29 – Dec 1st)

Islamic Literature, War Literature, Prison Literature

Politics of Writing in Iran, Chapter 4

Khorrami, Mohammad Mehdi, “Narratives of Silence: Persian Fiction of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war” PDF available

Khorrami, Mohammad Mehdi, “From Prison Reports to Prison Literature” PDF available

Students’ Final Presentations

Week 16 (Dec 6th)

Students’ Final Presentations