

Persian

Minor

The Persian minor introduces students to the language, peoples, cultures, histories of the Persian-speaking world. The minor develops a student's command of reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension in the Persian language and may complement the student's intended major study.

Students wishing to major in Persian should see the major requirements in the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/>) major.

Students minoring in Persian must satisfy the lower division prerequisite requirements. Students may also take a language proficiency exam to waive the elementary and intermediate language courses. Please meet with the undergraduate major advisor to discuss course options or plan for study abroad.

Declaring the Minor

Students may declare the Persian minor as soon as they begin their study at UC Berkeley. Please find the minor declaration form in the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures department or email the undergraduate major advisor. Students must declare the minor *no later than the semester before their Expected Graduation Term (EGT)*. Please see the L&S minor guidelines (<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/majors-minors/minors/>) page for more information.

Other Majors and Minors offered by Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) Department

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/>) (Major and Minor)
 Arabic (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/arabic/>) (Minor)
 Hebrew (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/hebrew/>) (Minor)
 Turkish (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/turkish/>) (Minor)

The Persian minor program requires five upper-division courses in Persian literature and culture.

General Guidelines

- All minors must be declared before the first day of classes in your Expected Graduation Term (EGT). For summer graduates, minors must be declared prior to the first day of Summer Session A.
- All upper-division courses must be taken for a letter grade.
- A minimum of three of the upper-division courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements must be completed at UC Berkeley.
- A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required in the upper-division courses to fulfill the minor requirements.
- Courses used to fulfill the minor requirements may be applied toward the Seven-Course Breadth requirement, for Letters & Science students.
- No more than one upper division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor programs.
- All minor requirements must be completed prior to the last day of finals during the semester in which the student plans to graduate. If students cannot finish all courses required for the minor by that time, they should see a College of Letters & Science adviser.
- All minor requirements must be completed within the unit ceiling. (For further information regarding the unit ceiling, please see the College Requirements tab.)

Requirements

Lower Division Requirements 20

- PERSIAN 1A Elementary Modern Persian [5]
- PERSIAN 1B Elementary Modern Persian [5]
- or Persian 11A & Persian 11B for heritage speakers
- PERSIAN 20A Intermediate Modern Persian [5]
- PERSIAN 20B Intermediate Modern Persian [5]

Upper Division Requirements 15-20

Persian Language and Literature

- PERSIAN 100A Advanced Persian [3]

Select two courses:

- PERSIAN 100B Advanced Persian [3]
- PERSIAN 101A Readings in Persian Literature [3]
- PERSIAN 101B Readings in Persian Literature [3]
- PERSIAN 102A Readings in Classical Persian Prose [3]
- PERSIAN 102B Readings in Classical Persian Prose [3]
- PERSIAN 103A Classical Persian Poetry [3]
- PERSIAN 103B Classical Persian Poetry [3]
- PERSIAN 104A Contemporary Persian Literature [3]
- PERSIAN 104B Contemporary Persian Literature [3]
- PERSIAN 105 Modern Analytical Prose in Persian [3]

Persian Culture and History

Select two courses:

- MELC 109 Mesopotamian History: Stories of Ancient People and Places [3]
- MELC 111 Disease, Health and Pandemics in Ancient Egypt, the Ancient Middle East, and the Classical World 4
- MELC 113 Gilgamesh: King, Hero, and God [4]
- MELC 117 Course Not Available [4]
- MELC 118 Writing Systems of the World [4]
- MELC 119 Explorers, Archaeologists, and Tourists in the Middle East [4]
- MELC C120B The Art of Ancient Mesopotamia: 1000-330 BCE [4]
- MELC C121 Topics in Islamic Art [4]
- MELC 126 Silk Road Art and Archaeology [3]
- MELC 129 Arts of Iran and Central Asia [4]
- MELC 140 Topics in Islamic Thought and Institutions [3]

MELC 141	Modern and Contemporary Islamic Thought [3]
MELC 142	Shi'ite Islam [3]
MELC 143	Islam in Iran [3]
MELC 144	Sufism: The Mysticism of Islam [3]
MELC 145	Women in Islam [4]
MELC 146	Islam [4]
MELC 147	The Rise of Islamic Civilization [4]
MELC 148	Emergence of the Modern Middle East [4]
MELC 149	The Modern Middle East from WWI to the Present [4]
MELC 151	Middle Eastern Women Writers [4]
MELC 152	Cultural Encounters in Modern Arabic Literature [3]
MELC 153	Synagogues, Cathedrals, and Mosques: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain [4]
MELC 155	The Thousand and One Nights in World Literary Imagination [3]
MELC 156	Sociolinguistics of the Middle East [4]
MELC 157	Reel Arabs: Film and Fiction in the Middle East [4]
MELC 158AC	Middle East: Post-Colonialism, Migration, and Diaspora [4]
MELC 159	Middle East, Empire, and Orientalism [4]
MELC 160	Religions of Ancient Iran [3]
MELC 161	Topics in Persian Art and Culture [4]
MELC 162	History of Persian Literature [4]
MELC 163	Persian Literature in Translation [4]
MELC 165	Film and Fiction of Iran [4]
MELC 170	Islamic History and Historiography (600-1050) [3]
MELC 175	History and Culture of Afghanistan [3]
MELC 180	The Quran and Its Interpretation [4]
MELC 190I	Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Iranian/Persian [4]
MELC 192I	Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Iranian/Persian [2,4]
MELC 198	Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students [1-4]
MELC 199	Supervised Independent Study and Research [1-4]
Total Units	
39-44	

Persian

PERSIAN 1A Elementary Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Introduction to Persian language, covering basics of the language skills in all aspects of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking with emphasis on culture and communicative methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Prerequisite for Persian 1B, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 1B Elementary Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Introduction to Persian language, covering basics of the language skills in all aspects of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking with emphasis on culture and communicative methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 1A, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 10 Intensive Elementary Persian 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2017, Summer 2016 10 Week Session, Summer 2015 8 Week Session

This course is equivalent to a full year of elementary Persian. It will train students in the four language skills: speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Emphasis will be placed on the functional usage of the language.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 10 after taking 1A-1B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 11A Reading and Composition for Persian Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Persian grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Persian 20A, Intermediate Persian.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Rudimentary knowledge of spoken Persian and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 11B Reading and Composition for Persian-Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Persian grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Persian 20A, Intermediate Persian.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 11A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 20 Intensive Intermediate Persian 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2017 8 Week Session, Summer 2007 10 Week Session, Summer 2007 8 Week Session

A year or more of advanced level Persian with emphasis on advanced grammar and vocabulary build up. Newspaper clippings, film reviews and cultural awareness through introduction of literature will be covered.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 1A-1B or Persian 10 or equivalent

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 20A Intermediate Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The sequence begins in the fall. This course emphasizes reading of simple literary texts, expository writing and composition, formal conversation, grammar, and syntax. It involves intensive vocabulary building in preparation for advanced reading and comprehension of standard literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 1A-1B or Persian 11A-11B or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 20B Intermediate Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The sequence begins in the fall. This course emphasizes reading of simple literary texts, expository writing and composition, formal conversation, grammar, and syntax. It involves intensive vocabulary building in preparation for advanced reading and comprehension of standard literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 20A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 50 Persian Reading and Composition 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Summer 1995 10 Week Session

This course is designed to promote advanced literacy skills in students with different levels of spoken Persian but little or no reading and writing skills in the language. This course will prepare students to take advanced literature courses in the Persian language.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Knowledge of spoken Persian and consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 50 after taking 106A-106B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 100A Advanced Persian 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Emphasis on intensive vocabulary building, comprehensive grammar review, reading and analysis of short literary texts of various genres from classical and modern periods, and reading newspaper clips and other original sources in Persian media.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 20A-20B or equivalent, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 100B Advanced Persian 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Emphasis on intensive vocabulary building, comprehensive grammar review, reading and analysis of short literary texts of various genres from classical and modern periods, and reading newspaper clips and other original sources in Persian media.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 100A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 101A Readings in Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2013, Fall 2012

Readings in both prose and poetry, drawn chiefly from classical and modern Persian literature, designed to increase reading skills and vocabulary and to provide a transition to the study of more challenging literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 100A-100B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 101B Readings in Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2012

Readings in both prose and poetry, drawn chiefly from classical and modern Persian literature, designed to increase reading skills and vocabulary and to provide a transition to the study of more challenging literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 101A or the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 102A Readings in Classical Persian Prose 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2016

Systematic study of representative selections from all periods of classical Persian literature, with attention to the historical and intellectual context.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 102B Readings in Classical Persian Prose 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2008, Spring 2006

Systematic study of representative selections from all periods of classical Persian literature, with attention to the historical and intellectual context.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 103A Classical Persian Poetry 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Systematic study of poems belonging to all genres of classical Persian poetry, with consideration of questions of prosody, rhetoric, and style.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 103B Classical Persian Poetry 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2020, Spring 2018

Systematic study of poems belonging to all genres of classical Persian poetry, with consideration of questions of prosody, rhetoric, and style.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 104A Contemporary Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2013, Summer 1996 10 Week Session

This course will deal with significant works of Persian prose and poetry from the beginning of the 19th century down to the present. Complete works or extracts from them will be read in the original as a preliminary to their analysis in terms of literary and stylistic development, as well as the changing role of literature in society. The works of the 19th century and the period of the Constitutional Revolution (1905-1911).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 104B Contemporary Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2017, Spring 2013

This course will deal with significant works of Persian prose and poetry from the beginning of the 19th century down to the present. Complete works or extracts from them will be read in the original as a preliminary to their analysis in terms of literary and stylistic development, as well as the changing role of literature in society. The literature of the rest of the 20th century.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 105 Modern Analytical Prose in Persian 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2015, Spring 2010

This course deals with modern/contemporary critical theory, literary history, aesthetics and philosophy, and various theories of literary and cultural criticism in Persian. It concentrates on selected modern analytical, discursive, and expository texts in Persian. The course explores, from an inter- and multi-disciplinary perspective, how different movements, genres, and rhetorical aspects of modern/contemporary literature and culture have been perceived, historically contextualized, and critically positioned within the larger intellectual and scholarly domain in Persian. All texts will be read in the original Persian.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A-101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 120 Intensive Intermediate Persian 10 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A year or more of advanced level Persian with emphasis on advanced grammar and vocabulary build up. Newspaper clippings, film reviews and cultural awareness through introduction of literature will be covered.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 1A-1B or Persian 10 or equivalent

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 20

PERSIAN H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PERSIAN 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PERSIAN 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2003, Fall 2002

Enrollment is restricted by regulations shown in the .

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.