

4. Iranian Culture Seminar: An Advanced Persian Course designed by Michael Craig Hillmann et al., conducted by Michael Craig Hillmann

This **Iranian Culture Syllabus** is the result of years of teaching and lesson-writing for intermediate and advanced students of Persian. The teaching has taken place in Second- and Third-year Persian classes at The University of Texas at Austin and in non-academic Persepolis Institute courses and seminars from one to five weeks in duration for American government Persian specialists and advanced university students in Austin, at The University of Baltimore, and elsewhere. Relevant language lessons on Iranian culture have heretofore appeared in four books: *Persian Fiction Reader: Second Edition* (2000), *Persian Newspaper Reader: Second Edition* (2000), *Persian Vocabulary Acquisition—An Intermediate Reader and Guide to Word Forms and the Arabic Element in Persian: Second Edition* (2003), and *Reading Iran Reading Iranians: Second Edition Revised* (2002). This **Iranian Culture Syllabus** contains a handful of lessons adapted from cited textbooks and readers, as well as from *Persian Listening* (2008) and *Persian Grammar and Verbs* (2011).

Iranian Culture Syllabus lends itself to a communicative (Persian-only) classroom environment and to intensive learning settings of from one to three weeks and non-intensive learning settings of an academic semester in duration. In any setting in which the **Iranian Culture Syllabus** serves as the course text, its use aims primarily to help students increase their knowledge about the subject and their proficiency in listening to and reading texts on it, and in talking about the subject. Descriptions of Persian morphology and syntax appear in some ICS lessons, which thus serve a second aim of stimulating students to reach conclusions about language features through exposure to authentic texts.

Some units in **Iranian Culture Syllabus** are reading units and others listening; some units include prefatory descriptions and discussion of language features; and all units focus on Iranian culture as Iranians perceive and describe in their (1) the introduction of language concepts and issues through authentic texts, (2) emphasis on vocabulary acquisition and maintenance through exposure to groups of words on the same subject or exhibiting the same pattern, (3) the use of authentic texts as a springboard to work on listening, reading, and speaking skills, and (4) the privileging of Iranian self-views.

Because **Iranian Culture Syllabus** offers more hours of classroom and self-study work and activities than an non-intensive semester-long course or an intensive, one-to refresher course can cover, it offers features, including translations and audio recordings of texts, which encourage readers to continuing working with it in self-study after the course they take in which it serves as a textbook.

Here follows a list of the titles of units in **Iranian Culture Syllabus**.

- 1.Culture and Aspects/Features of Iranian Culture
- 2.A Philatelic Self-view Look at Iranian Culture
- 3.The Land of Iran
- 4.Peoples of Iran
- 5.Cultural Studies and Bilingual Education:
Arabic Loanword Patterns Review
- 6.An Iranian Culture Website: Review of Noun/Adjective Words with Verb Parts/Stems
- 7.On Language and the Persian Language
- 8.Iranian History
- 9.Religion in Iran
- 10.Persian Literature
- 11.The Iranian Year, Calendars, and Cultural Dates/Events
- 12Cultural Images from Contemporary Iranian Painting
- 13Poetry: "I Feel Sorry for the Garden" by Forugh Farrokhzâd
- 14Issues in Iranian Culture
- 15Cultural Concerns of a Political Wing of Iranian Clerics:A Language Topics Review Test
- 16A Cinematic Self-view of Iranian Culture: The Feature Film Called Marriage Iranian Style
- 17Iranian Jokes

18Iranian Food