

6. Advanced Persian Grammar Seminar designed and conducted by Michael Craig Hillmann

Advanced Persian Grammar Seminar is a Persian language course designed for students with advanced Persian reading skills. Seminar sessions deal with authentic reading and listening texts in lesson modules in a new textbook called *Persian Grammar and Verbs* (iv, 432p, 2010), which includes an audio CD of all sixty-eight textbook reading and listening texts. *Persian Grammar and Verbs* is a volume in a series of four-skills Persian textbooks. The other books in the series are: *Persian Listening* (2008), *Persian Reading and Writing* (2009), and *Persian Conversation(s)* (2012).

Separate chapters in *Persian Grammar and Verbs* treat nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, masculine and feminine gender, cardinal and ordinal numbers, prepositions, and conjunctions. Separate chapters deal with one-word "regular" verbs, one-word "irregular" verbs, multi-word verbs, intransitive and transitive verbs (active and passive). Separate chapters describe and illustrate all verb tenses and moods. One chapter each treats the verbs *budân* [to be], *dâshîân* [to have], *kardân* [to make/do], *shodân* [to become], *khâstân* [to want], *tavânestân* [to be able], *bâyestân* [to have to] and *shâyestân* [to be fitting/possible], *dâdân* [to give], *goftân* [to say/tell], *rasidân* [to arrive/reach], *gereftân* [to get/obtain/receive], *raftân* [to go], *âmadân* [to come], and *andkhordân* [to eat/drink/ingest; to undergo]. Chapters on Persian noun/adjective forms and patterns deal with plural noun forms, noun/adjective words formed with present verb stems, uses of verb past stems and participles, Arabic loanword patterns, and Arabic phrases and grammar in Persian. The book's concluding chapters describe and illustrate relative clauses and uses of the subordinating conjunction *ke*, temporal clauses and uses of the subordinating conjunction *tâ*, conditional sentences, causal, purpose, and result clauses, and the sequencing of verb tense forms.

Most American university and government advanced Persian language courses have syllabi consisting of reading selections, imaginative literature or journalistic writing, with no structured lesson materials (e.g., pre-reading or pre-listening or reading and listening activities and practice), no appreciation of the proficiency level of texts or tasks, and no concern with strategies that lead students from intermediate to advanced to superior proficiency levels in reading and listening (ACTFL/ILR). In contrast, this seminar uses categories of morphology and syntax as an organizing learning principle and presents illustrations of language features in texts leading students to inductive conclusions about those features. The extensive discussions of Persian language features in *Persian Grammar and Verbs*, which has undergone fieldtesting with over twenty groups of students from around America since 2000, is wholly descriptive and nontechnical in its explanations and gives equal attention to literary/written and colloquial/spoken registers of the Tehran dialect of the Fârsi Persian language.

Persian Grammar Seminar sessions review of explanatory materials in *Persian Grammar and Verbs* as well as compare discussions therein with treatments of the same subjects in other Persian grammars listed in the seminar bibliography.