Courses Offered 2017-2018

Three year Persian language classes for students with no background in Persian:
1st year (RGST 57A, RGST 57B, RGST 57C)
2nd year (RGST 57D, RGST 57E, RGST 57F)
3rd year (RGST 157A)

Two year intensive Persian Language classes for students with some background in Persian:
1st year (RGST 58A, RGST 58B, RGST 58C)

Supplementary Persian Courses Offered:
Contemporary Persian Literature (RGST 157CP)
Persian Cinema (RGST 157G)

Materials for the new courses...

This year was the first year that Intensive Persian Language courses were offered. Persian, as a less commonly learned language (LCTL) does not have standardized textbooks. Since heritage students require specific teaching methods and materials, Prof. Feiz spent a considerable amount of time preparing materials for all three intensive offered language classes. Students received the materials weekly at no extra cost.

Key Changes
- Offering both regular and intensive language courses
- Creation of Persian Media and Persian Cinema courses
- GE Approval of Intensive Persian Language Courses for Area B (Language)
- GE Approval of Persian Cinema for Area F (Arts) & World Cultures

Aazam Feiz, Ph.D
Lecturer of Persian Language & Literature

"This was the first year in which we offered two sets of Persian language classes: the regular classes and the intensive classes at the same time. Regular classes were offered for students with no background in Persian language. Students with some background in the language, along with Persian heritage students, were enrolled in the intensive Persian language courses. Fortunately, there was an almost unexpected, overwhelming interest in both sets of courses. This successful outcome can be best explained by the separation of regular and intensive classes followed by the program’s cultural events designed to increased visibility."

-Dr. Aazam Feiz

In line with the previous modifications, Dr. Feiz created two more Persian courses: RGST 157G (Persian Cinema) and RGST 157I (Persian Media). Persian Cinema was created to supplement the language-learning courses and was offered in Spring 2017. The creation of this course was based upon the need and the interests of the students. For this reason, we had an extremely positive turnout with over 30 students enrolled. Persian media is also designed and created for language-learners. This course is the study of authentic Persian news, reports, songs, and short movies through a variety of media sources such as print, journals, TV, and the internet. This course will improve the students’ reading and their ability to critically analyze media sources. Persian Media will be offered in Winter 2019.

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Student Opinions on the New Courses

The need for separate classes was an urgent one, as it is not simply the addition of a class; it affects the quality of our education and allows for more one on one time with the professor.
– Romteen Borhani

“This class has genuinely felt like home to me because I am so comfortable and engaged in class it makes the learning experience that much more rewarding and beneficial. I can now recite poems with my Uncle and read my Mom’s Farsi cookbook all on my own.
– Ashley Amell

“Separate classes has benefitted Persian language learners by allowing students at different levels to learn as their respective paces.”
– Shirin Enayati

“The professor Aazam is so caring, educated, and she truly makes the classroom the most effective and fun learning environment.”
– Yasna Mehrabani

Gaining Visibility...

Persian lecturers and students promoted and advertised for the program and its new classes at various events like the Middle East Bazaar.
Persian Outreach 2017-2018

**Persian Cooking Classes**

Each quarter, Professor Feiz hosted a Persian cooking class in the Multicultural Center's kitchen. Students helped cook an authentic Persian meal. The cooking class taught students about the world famous cuisine of Iran as well as teaching them how to cook an easy and delicious dinner for themselves.

**Persian Movie Night**

The Persian Language and Lit program hosted the following three film screenings that worked to reveal aspects of the Persian culture and the Iranian lifestyle. These films exposed students to colloquial Farsi and portrays the Persian culture's take on love, gender relations, family values, traditions, social classes and more.

*The Salesman (2016)*
- Oscar Winner
- Cannes Festival Winner

*Offside (2006)*
- Berlin Film Festival Winner

*The Song of Sparrows (2009)*
- International Film Festival Award Winner (6+)
Just like most quarters, the Persian Language and Literature program hosted an evening of Tea & Culture packed full of information about Persian Language, some aspects of Iranian culture, and our current courses offered here at UCSB.

**Yalda Night**

Yalda is an Iranian festival celebrated on the longest night of the year: the night of the Northern Hemisphere’s winter solstice which usually falls on the night of December 20 or 21 in the Gregorian calendar. It’s celebrated in Iran, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Tajikistan, and Turkey. It’s one of the holiest nights in Old Persia and remains an official day in the Persian Empire Calendar. It is supposed to be the longest night of the year to celebrate the coming of longer lighter days. Yalda night is the celebration of the sun overcoming darkness. Friends and family usually commune together on this night and eat foods and fruits, read poetry, dance and play music. Two things that Yalda always include are watermelon and pomegranate. The red in these fruits symbolizes the crimson hues of dawn and the glow of life.

This year, we created a new event known as the Persian social which is held at the eighth week of each quarter. During this event, Persian language students present their term projects based upon an aspect of Persian culture. The participants enjoyed a potluck after.

Inviting other UCSB students to the event and opening it up to a multicultural community allows for more visibility.
The Persian New Year
The Persian Language and Literature Program celebrated Nowruz at UCSB with one celebratory show and two haft-sin exhibitions. The Persian New Year, Nowruz, has been celebrated for over 3000 years. Nowruz serves as a Spring Festival (northward equinox) of Persian origins and it is also the beginning of the Persian New Year. Three hundred million people celebrate worldwide, including people from Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iraq, India, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan, Syria, and Turkey.

Nowruz Show
In collaboration with the Persian Student Group, the Persian Language program celebrated the Persian New Year with their regular Persian show on campus. Tickets were open to everyone. This was a great opportunity for all students to learn about the New Year traditions and experience some authentic Persian entertainment including traditional music, recital of Persian poetry, and exotic dance. The show was followed by a dinner reception where the audience could visit the haft-sin exhibition once more.