

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 157D: ADVANCED PERSIAN

PERSIAN TRICKSTER TALES

WINTER 2012

**T-TH: 12:30-1:45 PM
HSSB 4020**

PROFESSOR JANET AFARY

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Office Hours: T-Th 2:00-3:00

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Course Description

Nasreddin is a highly popular trickster character of the Middle East. The Persians call him Molla Nasreddin, the Turks call him Hoja Nasreddin, while in the Arab world he is known as Joha. His clever saying and foolish deeds deal with ageless human dilemmas, narrow-mindedness, and arrogance. They also address social and cultural concerns such as unfulfilled bodily desires and stifling rituals. During this quarter, students will read a collection of Nasreddin short stories in Persian to become familiar with the trickster trope and gain proficiency in the language. By the end of the term students will learn how to write précis of these short tales, discuss them in Persian, and in general develop a greater mastery of the language and culture.

Required Texts

Salahi, Omran. *Molla Nasreddin*. Tehran : Abrang Press, 2007

Important dates:

Last day to drop the course: February 6, 2012

Final Examination: Monday, March 19, 12:30-1:45 PM

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:

GRADES AND EXAMS

Students will be divided into two levels in the first week of class, based on their reading and writing proficiency in Persian, and given corresponding levels of assignments and exams.

Please maintain a portfolio of completed assignments and submit to the instructor on the last day of class.

Your grade will be based on the following:

- Class participation: 20%

- Assignments: 20%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 20 %
- Essay: 20%

Essay: In addition to daily assignments, you are required to write a paper on the “Muslim Trickster Trope on the Internet” in consultation with the instructor (5 pages). **By the end of the fourth week, you should have started your research.**

Unannounced quizzes will be part of the assignments.

Late Assignments: Except in rare cases there will be no exam make-ups. Also, please don't send your assignments via email. Bring hard copies to class. If you miss class for whatever reason, place a copy of your assignment in the envelope on my door before the next class session.

Attendance Policy

Daily preparedness and participation in class discussions is mandatory. More than three (3) excused, or unexcused, absences will adversely affect your final grade. In some cases regular attendance may enhance your final grade.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week 1 (January 10-12):

January 10: Introductions

January 12: Lecture on the Trickster Trope

Week 2 (January 17-19):

Readings

January 17:

الاغ گمشده (۱۴۵) کتاب خوانی (۱۴۶) خدا را خوش نمی آید (۱۴۶) اجنه (۱۴۶) نماز جمعه (۱۴۷)

January 19:

وسط زمین (۱۴۸) جواب الاغ (۱۴۸) عرعر خر (۱۴۹) بزرگ شهر (۱۵۰)

Week 3 (January 24-26):

Readings

January 24:

قاضی (۱۵۱) این به ان در (۱۵۱) گناهکار کیست (۱۵۲) دوباره خر شده (۱۵۳) من یا تو (۱۵۳)

January 26:

صدای پا (۱۵۵) شمارش (۱۵۵) گواهی دست و شکم (۱۵۸) ببخشید (۱۵۸) اطمینان خاطر (۱۵۸)
خواب خوش (۱۵۹) ددری (۱۵۹)

Week 4 (January 31-February 2):

Readings

January 31:

بلای ناگهانی (۱۶۰) استراحت ملا (۱۶۰) صرفه جویی (۱۶۱) درس عبرت (۱۶۱) خوش سلیقه (۱۶۲)
کرامت (۱۶۲) شرط (۱۶۲)

February 2:

غرفه بهشتی (۱۶۳) حساب درست (۱۶۳) تخت چهار نفره (۱۶۴) وظیفه زن (۱۶۵) لج و لجبازی (۱۶۵)
تأثر و تأسف (۱۶۶)

Week 5 (February 7-9):

Readings

February 7: Assignment: Write a commentary on the following Youtube video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=#23FFAA

February 9:

وزن گربه (۱۷۴) زن ذلیل (۱۷۵) شتر و قلاده (۱۷۶) گردنبند (۱۷۷) زن لوچ (۱۷۷) سنگ و ترازو (۱۷۷)

Week 6 (February 14-16):

February 14: *First Midterm*

February 16: Assignment: Write a commentary on the following article in English,
“Mullahs to Donkeys: Cartooning in Azerbaijan” available on
http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/archives/v5_3/mandaville/

Week 7 (February 21-23):

Readings

February 21:

نوزاد (۱۸۱) خواستگاری (۱۸۲) زبان مردم (۱۸۷) دست و دل بازی (۱۸۷) فرزندان صالح (۱۸۵)
اصل مطلب (۱۸۵)

February 23:

در مسجد (۲۰۶) بشنو و باور نکن (۲۱۲) نشانه حماقت (۲۱۳) نمی دانم (۲۱۸)
قضیه فرق می کند (۲۱۸) دم خروس (۲۲۶) شاهد (۲۲۷) نجات خدا (۲۲۹) مهمان ملا (۳۰۶)

Week 8 (February 28 - March 1):

Film: Marmulak (The Lizard)

Week 9 (March 6-8)

March 6: Presentations of your essays

March 8. *Second Midterm*

Week 10 (March 13-15):

Presentations of your essays

MONDAY, MARCH 19: FINAL EXAM 12:30-1:45 PM; HSSB 4020