

Reading Package

**An Introduction to Classical Persian
Poetry**

SALT 222

Dr. Athar Masood

Fall 2016-17



**Gurmani Centre for Languages & Literature
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities & Social Sciences
Lahore University of Management Sciences**



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Course Code - 222

An Introduction to Classical Persian Poetry

(A 200 level course for Undergraduates)

Instructor	Dr. Muhammad Athar Masood
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Office Hours	
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Secretary/TA	YES
TA Office Hours	YES
Course URL (if any)	

Course Basics				
Credit Hours				
Lecture(s)	28		Duration	14 Weeks
Recitation/Lab (per week)	Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week	-	Duration	-
Tutorial (per week)	Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week	-	Duration	-

Course Distribution	
Core	SALT 222
Elective	YES
Open for Student Category	
Close for Student Category	

COURSE DESCRIPTION
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Introduction to Classical Persian Poetry</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>(A 200 Level Course for Undergraduates)</u></p> <p>The present course is aimed at introducing students with essentials of Persian poetry by reading masterpieces of classical Persian poetry through translations. Acquaintance with salient features of the Persian poetry by great maestros such as Abul Qasim Firdusi (d. 1020 CE), Umer Khayyam (d. 1131 CE), Nizami Ganjavi (d. 1209 CE), Farid-ud-Din Attar (d. 1221 CE), Jalal-ud-Din Rumi (d. 1273 CE), Sa'di Shirazi (d. 1291 CE), Amir Khusro (d. 1325 CE), Hafiz Shirazi (d. 1390 CE), Jami (d. 1492 CE) and Mirza Abdul Qadir Bedil Dehlavi (d. 1720 CE) through their works in all genre e.g. Mathnavi, Ghazal, Qasida and Rubai shall be the hall mark of this course. Chronological scope of this course stretches from Samanids (819-999 CE) to the later Moghals (1857 CE). Main focus of the course is to familiarize the students with basic literary concepts, rhetorical structures and literary genres as well as key names and dates in the history of classical Persian poetry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Students shall have the option to attempt response papers/class assignments and to take the midterm and final exam <u>in English or in Urdu.</u></i></p>



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COURSE PREREQUISITE(S)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are NO pre requisites for this course.
COURSE OBJECTIVES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) To deepen students' appreciation of the significance of the rank of the great classical Persian poets in world literature;(b) To enable the students to better comprehend the literature produced in Urdu and regional languages of Pakistan as they are culturally deep rooted in Persian language and literature;(c) To promote tolerance, humanity, peaceful co-existence and non-violence as all these characteristics are best enshrined in Persian literature.
Learning Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Read, translate and explain in Urdu or in English the selections from most famous texts of the great classical Persian poets;(b) Have a broad idea of the major issues discussed in classical Persian poetry;(c) Have sufficient knowledge of literary and cultural history of Iran and sub-continent;(d) Critically evaluate the poetic works of most eminent literary figures of Muslim world during past 1500 years and compare them with those produced in other eastern and western languages;
Grading Breakup and Policy	
<p>Presentation(s): NIL Response Papers: 20 % (10+10) Quiz(s): NIL Class Participation: 10 % Attendance: 10 % Midterm Examination: 30 % Project: NIL Final Examination: 30 %</p> <p>❖ There shall be two response papers, one before and one after the midterm exam.</p>	
Examination Detail	
Midterm Exam	Yes/No: YES Combine Separate: SEPARATE Duration: 90 minutes Preferred Date: After 14 lectures Exam Specifications: Closed Books & Closed Notes



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Final Exam	Yes/No: YES Combine Separate: SEPARATE Duration: 90 minutes Exam Specifications: Closed Books & Closed Notes
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COURSE OVERVIEW			
Week/ Lecture/ Module	Topics	Recommended Readings	Objectives/ Application
Lectures 1, 2 (Add/drop)	Revision of the basics of Persian language especially with the help of masterpieces of Persian poetry to familiarize students with the general mood and diction of Persian poetry.	As per detailed list given at the end	
Lectures 3, 4, 5	<p>Stylistics (اسالیب / سبک های شعر فارسی)</p> <p>Sub-topics: Explanation of "Diction" as a literary term; An overview of different modes of expressions from start of Persian poetry up to 17th century CE; Development of Persian poetry from easy to complex modes of expression; Brief discussion on contribution of different poets to the development of a specific style called <i>sabk</i> (اسلوب) in a particular literary age; introduction to famous styles in Persian poetry; Detailed discussion on three most famous styles namely Sabk-e-Khurasani, Sabk-e-Iraqi and Sabk-e-Hindi by quoting relevant examples.</p>	Reading Pack	
Lectures 6, 7, 8	<p>Tradition of Scenic Description in Persian Poetry (فارسی شاعری میں منظر (نگاری کی روایت)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Farrukhi (d. 1037 CE), Minucnehri (d. 1040 CE), Khaqani (d. 1198 CE)</p> <p>Sub-topics: Geographical background of Persian poetry; Scenic beauty of Fars province and other regions constituting present day and previous Iran; Tradition of scenic description depicted in almost every genre of Persian poetry except quatrain; Comparison of masterpieces of</p>	Reading Pack	



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	Persian poetry in this genre with those in English by William Wordsworth's Daffodils and in Urdu with Khushi Muhammad Nazir's Jogi;		
Lectures 9, 10, 11	<p>Epic in Persian Poetry (فارسی میں رزمیہ / شاعری کی روایت)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Firdusi (d. 1020 CE), Farrukhi (d. 1037 CE)</p> <p>Sub-topics: A cursory glance at political history of Iran before Muslim conquest; Early Shahnama(s) written in Persian contained description of wars etc; Rustam & Sohrab as universally famous brave warriors; Court poets used to compose Jang Nama(s); Wars with Alexander; Panegyrics also contained accounts of expeditions and conquests in beautiful literary mode for expression; Portrayal of Karbala in epic poems</p>	Reading Pack	
Lectures 12, 13, 14	<p>Panegyric in Persian Poetry (فارسی / شاعری میں قصیدہ / مدحیہ شاعری)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Anwari (d. 1187 CE), Zaheer Faryabi (d. 1201 CE), Urfi Sherazi (d. 1590 CE), Naziri Nishapuri (d. 1614 CE)</p> <p>Sub-topics: Kingship as an old tradition in Iran; Influence of Arabic poetry on early Persian poetry; Literal meanings of Qasid; Start of Qasida in Persian; Exaggeration in praising the rich, nobles and especially kings; Good and bad aspects of panegyric; Innovations in Qasida: Sa'di & Nasir Khusro (admonishing kings / نصیحت) and Masood Sa'd Salman (Prison Poems / حبسیہ قصاید)</p>	Reading Pack	
Lecture 15	MIDTERM EXAM		
Lectures 16, 17, 18	<p>Tradition of Bazmya Poetry in Persian (فارسی میں بزمیہ شاعری کی روایت)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Nizami Ganjavi (d. 1209 CE), Amir Khusro (d. 1325),</p>		



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	<p>Faizi (d. 1595 CE)</p> <p>Sub-topics: Iran as a civilized society for centuries; A well-mannered and culturally rich nation since long; Festive celebrations of Nauruz, Seezdeh be Dar etc; Concept of <i>mangal</i>; Comparison with Arabic poetry where every piece of poetry starts with same topic; Colourful and many facet expression of life in Persian poetry e.g. love, mysticism, epic, panegyric etc; Review of the tradition of sitting together and read something;</p>	Reading Pack	
Lectures 19, 20, 21	<p>Lyricism and the Tradition of Free-thinking in Persian Poetry (فارسی شاعری میں تغزل، خمربہ اور رندانہ مضامین کی روایت)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Hafiz Shirazi (d. 1390 CE), Khayyam (d. 1131 CE), Fakhru-ud-Din Iraqi (d.)</p> <p>Sub-topics: Tradition of kaas-el-kiram (کاس الکرام) in Arabic poetry; Explanation of the term Khamr (خمر); Making, selling and drinking of wine was a norm in the Iranian society since pre-Islamic age; Conquest of Iran in 7th century CE; Ban on drinking imposed during the early years of Islam; Islamic influence on social and cultural life of newly conquered Iran; Conflict between ruler and the ruled in the society; Start of Persian poetry; Iranian poets' difficulty in expression; Concept of خرابات، پیر معان، مقبچہ; Influence of Epicurean thought on Persian poetry; What is free thinking (مذہب رندی) in Persian literature;</p>	Reading Pack	
Lectures 22, 23, 24	<p>Moral Literature in Persian Poetry OR Ethics in Persian Poetry (فارسی شاعری میں اخلاقی ادب کی روایت)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Abu Saeed Abul Khair (d. 1048 CE), Abu Abdullah Ansari (d. 1088 CE), Sa'di Shirazi (d. 1291 CE), Ibn-i-Yamin (1367 CE),</p> <p>Sub-topics: Zarathustra and Mazdak were great Iranian moralists of pre-Islamic age; Avesta and other remains of</p>	Reading Pack	



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	<p>Pehlavi literature already contained great moral teachings; Ethical substance and teachings got a prominent expression in early Persian mathnavi(s) and panegyrics; tradition of Pand Nameh and Andurz Nameh; Bustan—magnum opus of ethical poetry in Persian; Ethics as a permanent subject of Persian poetry highlighting non-violence, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, humanity etc.</p>		
<p>Lectures 25, 26</p>	<p><u>Mysticism and Philosophy in Persian Poetry</u> (فارسی شاعری میں فلسفہ و تصوف)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Sanai Ghaznavi (d. 1150 CE), Attar (d. 1221 CE), Rumi (d. 1273 CE), Jami (d. 1492 CE),</p> <p>Sub-topics: Tradition of philosophy existed in Pehlavi literature much before advent of Islam; Start of mystic tradition in Persian poetry; Sufis preferred poetic mode of expression; Poets also employed mystic terms to express different thoughts; A review of general wave of mysticism in all Muslim countries after Mongol invasion in 14th century CE; Why Mathnavi is the most favourite genre for Sufi poets; Why Sufis preferred to use <i>rindi</i> (free-thinking, skeptical (رندانه خیالات) terms for explaining mystic thoughts;</p>	<p>Reading Pack</p>	
<p>Lectures 27, 28</p>	<p><u>Satirical and Lamponist Poetry in Persian</u> (فارسی میں طنزیہ و ہجویہ شاعری)</p> <p>Renowned exponents: Suzani Samarqandi (d. 1166 CE), Anwari (d. 1187 CE), Khaqani (d. 1198 CE), Ubaid Zakani (d. 1370 CE)</p> <p>Sub-topics: Opinion of orientalists about Iranians' sense of humour; Exaggeration by poets in praise of rich for monetary gains; Use of pun; Lampon in case of less reward than hoped for;</p>	<p>Reading Pack</p>	
	<p>REVISION & FINAL EXAM</p>		



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Textbook(s)/Supplementary Readings

English:

1. Abdul Ghani, Dr. *A History of Persian Literature at the Mughal Court*, Allahbad 1929.
2. Levy, R., *Persian Literature*, London 1969.
3. Nabi Hadi, *A History of Indo-Persian Literature*, New Delhi 1995.
4. Syces, P.M., *A History of Persian Literature*, London 1915.
5. Aryanpour, Minuchehr, *A History of Persian Literature*, Tehran 1973.
6. Browne, E.G., *A literary History of Persia*, New York 1906.
7. Yarshater, Ehsan. , Some Characteristics of Persian Poetry and Arts, *Studia Islamica* (1962) pp 61-72

Urdu:

۱. احمد، ڈاکٹر ظہور الدین ، پاکستان میں فارسی ادب ، جلد یکم تا پنجم ، لاہور س ن
۲. انصاری ، ڈاکٹر نور الحسن ، فارسی ادب بعهد اورنگزیب ، دہلی ۱۹۶۹ ء
۳. بدخشانی ، میرزا مقبول بیگ ، ادب نامہ ایران ، لاہور س ن
۴. تاریخ ادبیات مسلمانان پاک و ہند ، فارسی ادب سے متعلقہ جلدیں ، پنجاب یونیورسٹی ، لاہور
۵. تبسم ، صوفی غلام مصطفی ، غزلیات خسرو ، پیکجز لمیٹڈ ، لاہور س ن
۶. سید عبداللہ ، ڈاکٹر ، ادبیات فارسی میں ہندوؤں کا حصہ ، لاہور ۱۹۶۷
۷. شبلی ، محمد صدیق ، فارسی ادب کی مختصر ترین تاریخ ، لاہور ۱۹۸۷ ء
۵. عابدی ، سید ، وزیر الحسن ، غزلیات فارسی غالب ، دانشگاہ پنجاب لاہور ۱۹۶۹ ء
۶. عابدی ، سید وزیر الحسن ، سعدی و خسرو ، پیکجز لمیٹڈ لاہور س ن
۷. نعمانی ، شبلی ، شعر العجم ، لاہور س ن



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Internet Sources:

1. www.perslit.com
2. www.ganjoor.net
3. www.iranicaonline.org
4. <http://thesouthasianidea.wordpress.com/from-elsewhere/#Rahbar>

Persian:

- ۱- انوشه ، حسن ، دانشنامه ادب فارسی شیب قاره ، تهران ، ۱۳۸۰ هـ . ش-
- ۲- شفق ، دکتر رضا زاده ، تاریخ ادبیات ایران ، تهران ۱۳۴۲ هـ . ش -
- ۳- صفا ، دکتر ذبیح الله ، تاریخ ادبیات در ایران ، تهران ۱۳۶۸ هـ . ش -
- ۴- کیا ، زهرا خانلری ، راهنمای ادبیات فارسی ، تهران ۱۳۴۰ هـ . ش -