

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2016
[Previous Value](#) Summer 2012

Course Change Information

What change is being proposed? (If more than one, what changes are being proposed?)

update course title, course description, allowable student cumulative credit hours & separate enrollments, and credit hours per offering.

What is the rationale for the proposed change(s)?

a) desire for opportunity to offer graduate students intensive 4-credit-hour pro seminar (akin to Arabic 8891, e.g.) and also to retain feasibility for May term offerings with contact hours limited to number appropriate for 3-credit-hour denomination.

b) update from "Persian" to "Iranian" to better signify more historical, cultural, and disciplinary inclusivity and broader expertise of current NELC faculty.

What are the programmatic implications of the proposed change(s)?

(e.g. program requirements to be added or removed, changes to be made in available resources, effect on other programs that use the course)?

more flexibility for graduate students and faculty teaching

Is approval of the request contingent upon the approval of other course or curricular program request? No

Is this a request to withdraw the course? No

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Persian
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Near Eastern Languages/Culture - D0554
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Graduate
Course Number/Catalog 8891
Course Title Seminar in Iranian Studies
[Previous Value](#) [Seminar in Persian Studies](#)
Transcript Abbreviation Sem Iranian Stds
[Previous Value](#) [Sem Persian Stds](#)
Course Description The Seminar in Iranian Studies consists of intensive investigation of a selected topic or problem in Iranian linguistics, philology, literature, religion, or culture.
[Previous Value](#) [Intensive investigation of a selected topic or problem in Persian literature, literary culture, philology, or linguistics.](#)
Semester Credit Hours/Units Variable: Min 3 Max 4
[Previous Value](#) [Fixed: 3](#)

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 7 Week, 4 Week (May Session), 12 Week (May + Summer)
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable Yes
Allow Multiple Enrollments in Term No
[Previous Allow Multiple Enrollments in Term](#) Yes
Max Credit Hours/Units Allowed 32

<i>Previous Max Credit Hours/Units Allowed</i>	12
Max Completions Allowed	8
<i>Previous Max Completions Allowed</i>	5
Course Components	Seminar
Grade Roster Component	Seminar
Credit Available by Exam	No
Admission Condition Course	No
Off Campus	Never
Campus of Offering	Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites	Graduate standing
<i>Previous Value</i>	<i>Prereq: Permission of instructor.</i>
Exclusions	

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code	16.0801
<i>Previous Value</i>	<i>16.1199</i>
Subsidy Level	Doctoral Course
Intended Rank	Masters, Doctoral

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Previous Value

Required for this unit's degrees, majors, and/or minors

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Advanced understanding and knowledge in a specific area of Iranian studies sufficient to conduct doctoral and subsequent research in the field

- Can include research capacity in a language of ancient Iran

Previous Value

Content Topic List

- Iranian history
- Iranian philology
- Iranian cultures
- Iranian literature
- Iranian religions

Previous Value

- *Content varies*
- *Intensive study in Persian literature, culture, philology, or linguistics*
- *Requires critical reading, writing, listening, and reading skills in Persian and/or English as appropriate*

Attachments

- DRAFT Persian 8891 Seminar in Iranian Studies OSU Syllabus example A.docx: sample syllabus 1
(Syllabus. Owner: Acome, Justin)
- DRAFT Persian 8891 Seminar in Iranian Studies OSU Syllabus example B.docx: sample syllabus 2
(Syllabus. Owner: Acome, Justin)
- PERSIAN 8891 Seminar in Iranian Studies OSU Syllabus example A 3-unit.docx: sample syllabus 3
(Syllabus. Owner: Acome, Justin)

Comments

- See 5-13-15 feedback to M. Liu and J. Acome. *(by Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal on 05/13/2015 03:51 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Acome, Justin	04/08/2015 03:40 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Acome, Justin	04/08/2015 03:40 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel, Garrett Robert	04/15/2015 10:47 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	05/13/2015 03:52 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Acome, Justin	05/20/2015 01:57 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Acome, Justin	05/20/2015 01:57 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel, Garrett Robert	06/05/2015 07:04 PM	College Approval
Approved	Hanlin, Deborah Kay	06/15/2015 02:39 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Pending Approval	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Fink, Steven Scott Hogle, Danielle Nicole	06/15/2015 02:39 PM	ASC Approval

Seminar in Iranian Studies:

Old Persian Language and Achaemenian Royal Culture

PERSIAN 8891

4 units

WF 12:10-2:00, Hagerty Hall 306 (NELC Seminar Room)

Instructor: Kevin van Bladel

Contact: vanbladel.2@osu.edu, Hagerty Hall 300G

Office Hours: T1-2 or by appt.

The Seminar in Iranian Studies consists of intensive investigation of a selected topic or problem in Iranian linguistics, philology, literature, religion, or culture.

This iteration of the Seminar covers the ancient Iranian language called Old Persian in its historical and material context in the Achaemenian Empire. A major part of the course consists of an intensive philological investigation of the inscriptions of the Achaemenid kings. Students will learn to read the language in the original cuneiform script and cover the entire corpus of texts. They will also study the place of Old Persian in Indo-European linguistics and within the Iranian languages as a family. Furthermore, students will survey the field of Achaemenid Studies and write a research paper of substance on a selected topic in the field.

The Achaemenid dynasty conquered all of Western Asia and ruled, from Greece and Egypt to India, from 550 BCE until the Macedonian invasion under Alexander in the 330s BCE. For these two hundred years Old Persian was the language of the court and the ruling elite. This language is attested in a series of inscriptions, some of them quite long, stating clearly the ideology of imperial power as expressed by the Achaemenids, outlining the extent of their empire and the imperial deeds that they themselves considered noteworthy. These inscriptions are the earliest physical documents in any Iranian language and are part of ongoing debates about the origins of Zoroastrianism and the fidelity of Greek historians of the Persians such as Herodotus. They are among the most important sources for historians in telling the history of this first “world empire” against which the ancient Greeks defined themselves.

We will read the entirety of Pierre Briant’s masterwork on the Achaemenian Empire, *From Cyrus to Alexander* (updated English trans. 2002) a comprehensive, 1000-page state-of-the-art treatment of every aspect of the history and culture of the Persian Empire. Substantial class time will also be spent on the language and reading of Old Persian in its original, cuneiform script, and royal documents issued by these emperors. Students will pursue research projects according to their special interests.

Course Books:

- ❖ P. Oktor Skjærvø, *An Introduction to Old Persian*, revised and expanded 2nd ed., 2002.
- ❖ Josef Wiesehöfer, *Ancient Persia*, I.B. Tauris, 2001, pp. 1-101 (handout)
- ❖ Pierre Briant, *From Cyrus to Alexander: A History of the Persian Empire*, 2002 (trans. of 1996 French edition by Peter T. Daniels).

Online Resources:

- ❖ Encyclopaedia Iranica: <http://www.iranica.com/newsite/> [Containing articles on almost every subject we will touch on in the class. The website gives free access to the online version of the most important reference work on Iran ever compiled—paper version through the letter L as of this time, with many articles available for later letters, to appear in print in future volumes. Note that the online version is highly inconsistent in the representation of diacritical marks, and does not usually show graphics accompanying the articles. Check the paper version to be sure of details.]
- ❖ www.avesta.org [archive of Old and Middle Iranian texts relevant to Zoroastrianism]
- ❖ <http://www.livius.org/persia.html> [a sort of mini-encyclopaedia of the Achaemenid domain, including many photos]
- ❖ <http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/ARI/ariintroform.html> [Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions]
- ❖ www.parthia.com [on the later, Parthian kingdom]

Printed Reference Works and Other Readings Worth Your Time

- ❖ *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, DOHENY REF DS253.E53 1985 [Do *not* remove any volumes, and put them all back when you're done! We will all be using this resource constantly.]
- ❖ *The Cambridge History of Iran*, DOHENY HUMANITIES READING ROOM DS272.C34
- ❖ *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, ed. Jack Sasson DOHENY REF DS57.C55 1995
- ❖ *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd ed. [This monumental reference work was recently completed after forty years. Its articles focus on subjects from the 7th century onward, but many entries contain information on much older periods. Entries on places can be especially useful for historical geography.]

- ❖ *Forgotten Empire: The World of Ancient Persia*, ed. John E. Curtis and Nigel Talis, 2005 [contains very many photographs of material remains from the Persian dominion]
- ❖ Gene R. Garthwaite, *The Persians*, 2004 [It is a good idea for you to read a general history of Iran at some time. This is a recent survey of Iranian history from Cyrus to the present.]
- ❖ A.V. Williams Jackson, "The Great Behistun Rock and Some Results of a Re-Examination of the Old Persian Inscriptions on It," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 24 (1903): 77-95. [Includes the author's vivid description of his approach to the monument and his autopsy of it, as well as remarks on the state of its preservation a century ago. Pp. 77-84 and p. 95 will be of most interest to you.]

Course Materials

Required readings may be found on *Carmen*, though you may purchase Course Readers as well. A complete bibliographical list will be made available for students who wish to purchase the books from which the reading list has been compiled.

Attendance Policy

Your progress in this course depends upon your active engagement in class discussions. Attendance, therefore, is mandatory. Please discuss excused absences with me as early as possible. More than two absences may be grounds for reduction of your final grade by one-third of a letter (for example, B to B-). More than three absences will result in a grade of "EN" for the course.

Grading and Assignments

A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, E = 0-59

Active participation in the discussion of course materials is a basic requirement and is assumed. Non-participation will be treated as an absence (see above).

- 10 weekly quizzes (vocabulary, geography, names, 2 pts. per quiz) (10%)
Weeks 2 through 11.
- Midterm translation exam (15%)
- Final translation exam (Dec 9th) (15%)
- Weekly in-class readings of Old Persian inscriptions and in-class exercises (20%).
Every class meeting after Week 1.
- Write a 600-900 word proposal for your final paper (5%).
Due during Week 9.
- Write a *detailed* outline of the final paper (5%).
Due during week 12.

- 10-minute presentation on your final paper topic and tentative findings (10%).
Presented at meetings in weeks 13, 14, 15, scheduled in advance
- Write a final paper 15-20 pages long (not counting notes and bibliography) (20%).
Due Wednesday, December 16 by 2 pm to Carmen Dropbox.

Final papers should address topics relative to the study of the Achaemenids and their kingdom, chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Note: Regardless of your point total, you must pass the final to pass the class!

Learning Objectives

Students finishing this course will be able to read Old Persian inscriptions in the original cuneiform, and will have read most of the extant corpus of texts. They will have a state-of-the-art understanding of the first Persian Empire.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>).

Disability policy

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

Readings listed below are to be read in preparation for the session in which they are listed.

Schedule subject to changes upon announcement.

SCHEDULE (subject to changes!):

Week 1 (Aug 19, 21): Introduction to the Achaemenids. Historical Geography. Lessons 1-2.

Introduction. A brief history of the Iranian languages. Iranian phonology. Cuneiform script and pronunciation. Nouns, Adjectives.

Thursday: Quiz on names and dates of Achaemenids.

Week 2 (Aug 26, 28): Lessons 3-4. Read Wiesehöfer 1-101 (handout). More noun forms. Nominal sentences. Overview of verbal system.

Week 3 (Sept 2, 4): Lessons 5-6. Read Briant 1-106.

Logograms. Genitive-Dative. Middle voice. Naming phrases.

Week 4 (Sept 9, 11): Lessons 7-8. Read Briant 107-161.

Quiz on provinces of the Persian dominion.

Diphthongs, svarabhakti vowels, and other phonetic matters. Locative case. Vocative. Imperative.

Week 5 (Sept 16, 18): Lessons 9-10. Read Briant 165-254.

Instrumental-Ablative. Ablaut. Dual. Aorist.

Week 6 (Sept 23, 25): Lesson 11-12. Read Briant 255-301.

Comparative and superlative. Passive verbs. Relative pronouns and relative clauses.

Week 7 (Sept 30, Oct 2): Midterm Wednesday, Sept 30! Lesson 13. Read Briant 302-354.

Pronouns: demonstrative, interrogative, etc.

Week 8 (Oct 7, 9): Lesson 14-15. Read Briant 357-421.

Perfect and periphrastic perfect.

Week 9 (Oct 14; Autumn Break: no class Oct 16): Lesson 16. Read Briant 422-511.

Optative and its uses.

Week 10 (Oct 21, 23): Lesson 17. Read Briant 515-568.

Syntax: parataxis, coordination, etc. Adverbial clauses.

Week 11 (Oct 28, 30): Lesson 18. Read Briant 569-611.

Word order and syntactic movement.

Week 12 (Nov 4, 6): Lesson 19. Read Briant 612-690.

Word order, part 2. Late texts.

Week 13 (Veteran's Day: no class Nov 11; meeting on 13): Lesson 20. Read Briant 693-768.

Old Persian epigraphic literary style.

Week 14 (Nov 18, 20): Reading practice. Read Briant 769-813.

Bisitun inscription.

Thanksgiving Break (no meetings Nov 25, 27)

Week 15 (Dec 2, 4): Review and reading practice. Read Briant 817-876.

Bisitun inscription.

Week 16 (Dec 9):

Final translation exam

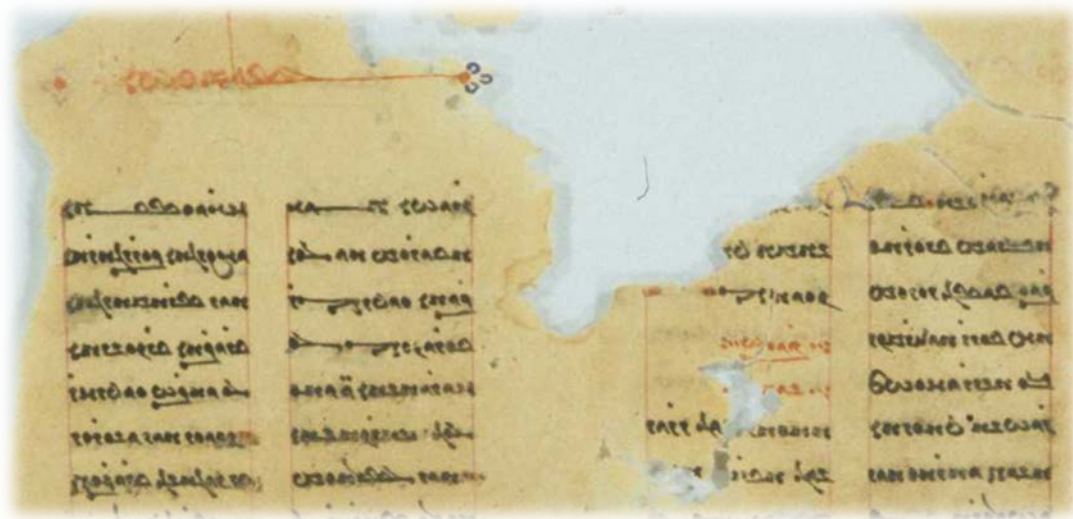
Final Paper Due on Carmen: Wednesday, Dec 16, 2:00pm

**Seminar in Iranian Studies:
Manichaean Middle Persian and Parthian**

PERSIAN 8891

4 units

WF 12:10-2:00, Hagerty Hall 306 (NELC Seminar Room)



Instructor: Kevin van Bladel (vanbladel.2@osu.edu)

Office Hours: M 1-2 pm, Hagerty 300G

Description of Course

The Seminar in Iranian Studies consists of intensive investigation of a selected topic or problem in Iranian linguistics, philology, literature, religion, or culture.

The majority of this iteration of the Seminar consists of the intensive study of two different, closely related languages, Middle Persian and Parthian. These are the two extensively attested Western Iranian languages of the period between the end of the Achaemenid dynasty and the advent of New Persian (Farsi), i.e. 330 BCE–ca 800 CE. Most of our class time will be spent examining texts in these two languages as they occur in Manichaean writings and in the Mesopotamian variety of the Aramaic script used by Manichaeans, as pictured above. We read texts primarily in photographs of the originals.

To understand the Middle Persian and Parthian texts you will be reading, you will need to learn about Manichaeism. The second component of the course, therefore, is an intensive introduction to the history and doctrines of this religion, founded in the third century,

intended as the fulfillment of earlier religions and especially Christianity, by the Mesopotamian Aramaic-speaking prophet Mani.

Together these two components of the course will give you a window onto an ancient religion to which very few scholars have direct access as well as thorough philological coverage of the Western Middle Iranian languages.

Goals

By the end of the course students will:

- be able to read Middle Persian and Parthian in the dialects used by Manichaeans and in the Manichaean script.
- understand the history of Manichaeism in its outlines, its doctrines, and the sources for its study, as well as of the history of scholarship on Manichaeism.
- have read extensively English translation of texts by and about Manichaeans in a variety of ancient languages.
- have learned Iranian historical linguistics relative to the two languages under examination.

Required Readings:

1. Iain Gardner and Samuel N. C. Lieu, *Manichaean Texts from the Roman Empire*, Cambridge University Press, 2004.
2. Valerie Hansen, "Midway between China and Iran: Turfan," in *The Silk Road: A New History*, Oxford University Press, 2012, pp. 83-112. [to be provided]
3. Werner Sundermann, "Manichaean Literature in Iranian Languages," in *The Literature of Pre-Islamic Iran*, volume XVII [Companion Volume I], ed. Ronald E. Emmerick and Maria Macuch, in *A History of Persian Literature*, London: I.B. Tauris 2009, pp. 1-71. [to be provided]

Also of interest:

4. J. P. Assmussen, *Manichaean Literature*, New York 1975.
5. Peter Hopkirk, *Foreign Devils on the Silk Road*, University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.
6. Hans-Joachim Klimkeit, *Gnosis on the Silk Road: Gnostic Prayers, Hymns, and Prayers from Central Asia*, Harpercollins 1993.
7. John C. Reeves, *Prolegomena to a History of Islamicate Manichaeism*, Equinox, 2011.

References: Grammar

- Christopher J. Brunner, *A Syntax of Western Middle Iranian*, New York 1977.
- A. Ghilain, *Essai sur la langue Parthe*, Louvain 1939.
- P. Oktor Skjærvø, "Middle West Iranian," in G. Windfuhr (ed.), *The Iranian Languages*, Routledge 2009, 196-278.
- Werner Sundermann, "Parthisch," in *CLI*, 114-137.

References: Dictionaries and Etymology

- Michael Back, *Die sassanidischen Staatsinschriften. Studien zur Orthographie und Phonologie des Mittelpersischen der Inschriften zusammen mit einem etymologischen Index des mittelpersischen Wortgutes und einem Textcorpus der behandelten Inschriften*, 1978.
- Mary Boyce, *A Word-List of Manichaean Middle Persian and Parthian*, Tehran-Lüttich 1977.
- Johnny Cheung, *Etymological Dictionary of the Iranian Verb*, Leiden 2007.
- Heinrich Hübschmann, *Armenische Grammatik*, Leipzig 1897.
- Philippe Gignoux, *Glossaire des Inscriptions Pehlevies et Parthes*, London 1972.
- Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst, *Dictionary of Manichaean Middle Persian and Parthian* (=Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum: Dictionary of Manichaean texts, vol. 3 Texts from Central Asia and China, Part 1), Brepols 2004.
- Paul Horn, *Grundriss der neupersischen Etymologie*, Strasburg 1893.

Web sites of interest and reference:

Digitales Turfan Archiv: <http://www.bbaw.de/forschung/turfanforschung/dta/>

Encyclopaedia Iranica: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/>

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Weeks 2 through 11.

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- Final translation exam (Dec 9th) (15%)
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Every class meeting after Week 1.

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Due during Week 9.

- Write a *detailed* outline of the final paper (5%).

Due during week 12.

- 10-minute presentation on your final paper topic and tentative findings (10%).

Presented at meetings in weeks 13, 14, 15, scheduled in advance

- Write a final paper 15-20 pages long (not counting notes and bibliography) (20%).

Due Wednesday, December 16 by 2 pm to Carmen Dropbox.

Final papers should address topics relative to the study of Manichaeism, using Middle Persian or Parthian texts, or Western Middle Iranian philology, chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Learning Objectives

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Schedule. (Subject to changes)

Week 1. Jan 13, 15.

Introduction to the Iranian languages and their classification. Iranian within Indo-European. Branches of Iranian languages and their geography.

Read: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_languages

Know the three stages of Iranian Languages. Study the map of the geographic distribution of the modern Iranian languages. Peruse the chart of words at the bottom of the Wikipedia article.

Introduction to Manichaeism.

Read: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/mani-founder-manicheism>

The Manichaean Script.

Optional reading: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/manichean-script>

Turfan and its manuscripts.

Suggested reading: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/turfan-expeditions-2> (Pay special attention to the German expeditions.)

Week 2. Jan 20, 22

Middle Persian Grammar. Inflection of nouns and verbs. Syntax.

Hansen, "Midway between China and Iran: Turfan."

How do the Manichaean texts found at Turfan fit into the political history of that site?

Week 3. Jan 27, 29

Middle Persian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text a.

Read: Lieu and Gardner pp. 1-25 (optional: 25-45)

Read: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/cologne-mani-codex-parchment>

Be able to explain how the Cologne Mani Codex transformed our understanding of Manichaeism.

Week 4. Feb 3, 5

Middle Persian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **b**.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 46-66.

Week 5. Feb 10, 12

Middle Persian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **c**.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 66-88.

Week 6. Feb 17, 19

Middle Persian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **d**.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 109-150.

Based on these readings, make a sketch timeline for Manichaeism in the Roman Empire, from its arrival to its demise. What were the turning points or the signs of its success or failure?

Week 7. Feb 24, 26

Middle Persian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **e**.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 151-175.

Week 8. March 2, 4

Middle Persian Readings. Sample of "Pahlavi" prose (*Kārnāmag ī Ardašīr ī Pābagān*, intro). Boyce's Reader, text **e**.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 176-202.

Week 9. March 9, 11

Parthian Grammar. Inflection of nouns and verbs. Syntax.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 202-230.

SPRING BREAK: No Classes March 16, 18

Week 10. March 23, 25

Parthian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **f**.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 231-258.

Week 11. March 30, April 1

Parthian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **g**.

Reading: Lieu and Gardner pp. 259-281.

Week 12. April 6, 8

Parthian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **h**.

Reading: Sundermann pp. 1-35.

Week 13. April 13, 15

Parthian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **i**.

Reading: Sundermann pp. 36-71.

Week 14. April 20, 22

Parthian Readings. Boyce's Reader, text **j**.

Week 15. April 27.

Parthian Readings. Sample of a Sasanian royal inscription in MP and Parthian (ŠKZ).

Final exam: as scheduled by University Registrar in the regular classroom

Seminar in Iranian Studies:

Old Persian: Language and History

PERSIAN 8891

3 units

MWF 12:40-1:35, Hagerty Hall 306 (NELC Seminar Room)

Instructor: Kevin van Bladel

Contact: vanbladel.2@osu.edu, Hagerty Hall 300G

Office Hours: T1-2 or by appt.

The Seminar in Iranian Studies consists of intensive investigation of a selected topic or problem in Iranian linguistics, philology, literature, religion, or culture.

This iteration of the Seminar covers the ancient Iranian language called Old Persian in its historical and material context in the Achaemenian Empire. The course consists of an intensive philological investigation of the inscriptions of the Achaemenid kings. Students will learn to read the language in the original cuneiform script and cover the entire corpus of texts. They will also study the place of Old Persian in Indo-European linguistics and within the Iranian languages as a family. The course will culminate in a rigorous examination in which students translate inscriptions from photographs and carry out historical-linguistic analyses.

The Achaemenid dynasty conquered all of Western Asia and ruled, from Greece and Egypt to India, from 550 BCE until the Macedonian invasion under Alexander in the 330s BCE. For these two hundred years Old Persian was the language of the court and the ruling elite. This language is attested in a series of inscriptions, some of them quite long, stating clearly the ideology of imperial power as expressed by the Achaemenids, outlining the extent of their empire and the imperial deeds that they themselves considered noteworthy. These inscriptions are the earliest physical documents in any Iranian language and are part of ongoing debates about the origins of Zoroastrianism and the fidelity of Greek historians of the Persians such as Herodotus. They are among the most important sources for historians in telling the history of this first “world empire” against which the ancient Greeks defined themselves.

Substantial class time will also be spent on the language and reading of Old Persian in its original, cuneiform script, and royal documents issued by these emperors. Students will pursue research projects according to their special interests.

Course Books:

- ❖ P. Oktor Skjærvø, *An Introduction to Old Persian*, revised and expanded 2nd ed., 2002.
- ❖ Josef Wiesehöfer, *Ancient Persia*, I.B. Tauris, 2001, pp. 1-101 (handout)

Online Resources:

- ❖ Encyclopaedia Iranica: <http://www.iranica.com/newsite/> [Containing articles on almost every subject we will touch on in the class. The website gives free access to the online version of the most important reference work on Iran ever compiled—paper version through the letter L as of this time, with many articles available for later letters, to appear in print in future volumes. Note that the online version is highly inconsistent in the representation of diacritical marks, and does not usually show graphics accompanying the articles. Check the paper version to be sure of details.]
- ❖ www.avesta.org [archive of Old and Middle Iranian texts relevant to Zoroastrianism]
- ❖ <http://www.livius.org/persia.html> [a sort of mini-encyclopaedia of the Achaemenid domain, including many photos]
- ❖ <http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/ARI/ariintroform.html> [Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions]
- ❖ www.parthia.com [on the later, Parthian kingdom]

Printed Reference Works and Other Readings Worth Your Time

- ❖ *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, DOHENY REF DS253.E53 1985 [Do *not* remove any volumes, and put them all back when you're done! We will all be using this resource constantly.]
- ❖ *The Cambridge History of Iran*, DOHENY HUMANITIES READING ROOM DS272.C34
- ❖ *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, ed. Jack Sasson DOHENY REF DS57.C55 1995
- ❖ *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd ed. [This monumental reference work was recently completed after forty years. Its articles focus on subjects from the 7th century onward, but many entries contain information on much older periods. Entries on places can be especially useful for historical geography.]
- ❖ *Forgotten Empire: The World of Ancient Persia*, ed. John E. Curtis and Nigel Talis, 2005 [contains very many photographs of material remains from the Persian dominion]

- ❖ Gene R. Garthwaite, *The Persians*, 2004 [It is a good idea for you to read a general history of Iran at some time. This is a recent survey of Iranian history from Cyrus to the present.]
- ❖ A.V. Williams Jackson, "The Great Behistun Rock and Some Results of a Re-Examination of the Old Persian Inscriptions on It," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 24 (1903): 77-95. [Includes the author's vivid description of his approach to the monument and his autopsy of it, as well as remarks on the state of its preservation a century ago. Pp. 77-84 and p. 95 will be of most interest to you.]

Course Materials

Required readings may be found on *Carmen*, though you may purchase Course Readers as well. A complete bibliographical list will be made available for students who wish to purchase the books from which the reading list has been compiled.

Attendance Policy

Your progress in this course depends upon your active engagement in class discussions. Attendance, therefore, is mandatory. Please discuss excused absences with me as early as possible. More than two absences may be grounds for reduction of your final grade by one-third of a letter (for example, B to B-). More than three absences will result in a grade of "E" for the course.

Grading and Assignments

A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-60, , E = 0-59

Active participation in the discussion of course materials is a basic requirement and is assumed. Non-participation will be treated as an absence (see above).

- 10 weekly quizzes (vocabulary, geography, names, 2 pts. per quiz) (20%)
Weeks 2 through 11.
- Midterm translation exam 1 (15%)
- Midterm translation exam 2 (15%)
- Final translation and linguistic analysis exam (Dec 9th) (30%)
- Weekly in-class readings of Old Persian inscriptions and in-class exercises (20%).
Every class meeting after Week 1.

Note: Regardless of your point total, you must pass the final to pass the class!

Learning Objectives

Students finishing this course will be able to read Old Persian inscriptions in the original cuneiform, and will have read most of the extant corpus of texts. They will understand the history of ancient Persian and its place and relationship to other Indo-European languages.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>).

Disability policy

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

Readings listed below are to be read in preparation for the session in which they are listed.

Schedule subject to changes upon announcement.

SCHEDULE (subject to changes!):

Week 1 (Aug 19, 21): Introduction to the Achaemenids. Historical Geography. Lessons 1-2.

Introduction. A brief history of the Iranian languages. Iranian phonology. Cuneiform script and pronunciation. Nouns, Adjectives.

Thursday: Quiz on names and dates of Achaemenids.

Week 2 (Aug 26, 28): Lessons 3-4. Read Wiesehöfer 1-101 (handout). More noun forms. Nominal sentences. Overview of verbal system.

Week 3 (Sept 2, 4): Lessons 5-6.

Logograms. Genitive-Dative. Middle voice. Naming phrases.

Week 4 (Sept 9, 11): Lessons 7-8.

Quiz on provinces of the Persian dominion.

Diphthongs, svarabhakti vowels, and other phonetic matters. Locative case. Vocative. Imperative.

Week 5 (Sept 16, 18): Midterm 1: Wednesday, Sept 16! Lessons 9-10.

Instrumental-Ablative. Ablaut. Dual. Aorist.

Week 6 (Sept 23, 25): Lesson 11-12.

Comparative and superlative. Passive verbs. Relative pronouns and relative clauses.

Week 7 (Sept 30, Oct 2): Lesson 13.

Pronouns: demonstrative, interrogative, etc.

Week 8 (Oct 7, 9): Lesson 14-15.

Perfect and periphrastic perfect.

Week 9 (Oct 14; Autumn Break: no class Oct 16): Lesson 16.

Optative and its uses.

Week 10 (Oct 21, 23): Midterm 2: Wednesday, Oct 21! Lesson 17.

Syntax: parataxis, coordination, etc. Adverbial clauses.

Week 11 (Oct 28, 30): Lesson 18.

Word order and syntactic movement.

Week 12 (Nov 4, 6): Lesson 19.

Word order, part 2. Late texts.

Week 13 (Veteran's Day: no class Nov 11; meeting on 13): Lesson 20.

Old Persian epigraphic literary style.

Week 14 (Nov 18, 20): Reading practice.

Bisitun inscription.

Thanksgiving Break (no meetings Nov 25, 27)

Week 15 (Dec 2, 4): Review and reading practice.

Bisitun inscription.

Week 16 (Dec 9):

Final translation and analysis exam

Final Paper Due on Carmen: Wednesday, Dec 16, 2:00pm