

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON

(South Asian Summer Language Institute – SUMMER 2012)

Pashto Language (Intermediate)

S Y L L A B U S

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Office hours: Monday through Friday (by appointment)

Course Goals / Objectives:

This is an intermediate level intensive Pashto language course intended for the Pashto language learners who have either completed a Pashto beginners' level course, or have self-studied, or possess family experience (heritage), and have attained a "survival" level of spoken Pashto proficiency. The course will focus on all the four aspects of language learning; i.e. Speaking, Writing, Reading and Listening, and will mostly consist of participatory, communicative and task-based activities which will give the students ample chances to use spoken and written Pashto in real-life situations.

By the end of the eight-week course, the students are expected to;

- Be able to engage in conversations and correspondence, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions in Pashto language.
- Understand and interpret written and spoken Pashto language on a variety of topics; such as social life, culture, politics, geography and economy.
- Able to carry out comprehensive conversation about weather, travel, directions, shopping, health concerns, social and cultural issues, etc.
- Understand and use past, present and future tenses of verbs
- Understand basic dialect differences between western Pashto (spoken in Kandahar/Quetta) and eastern Pukhto (spoken in Kabul/Peshawar)
- Know the basic geography of the Pashtun land (Afghanistan and Pakistan)

- Understand Pashtun culture and participate in some cultural events, and are able to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of Pashtun cultures
- Be able to learn more than 700 Pashto small and simple words

Class Meetings:

The class will meet for four hours, five days a week, i.e. Monday through Friday for eight weeks. Language classes are expected to be interactive where teacher-student, student-teacher and student- student interaction will be highly encouraged and appreciated. The course aims at enabling the students to orally communicate in Pashto with confidence. By the start of the third week of the class, all the students are encouraged to initiate interaction mainly in Pashto. During the last five weeks all the students are expected to speak ONLY Pashto in the class.

Week – 1 & 2 – Welcome and Getting Started:

Following Topics/tasks will be covered during this unit:

- An orientation on Pashto language and Pashtun land (Afghanistan and Pakistan)
- Review and practice the script and pronunciation of Pashto words that the students have learnt prior to coming to this class
- Practice the Pashto sounds, especially the ones that the students have the difficulty with
- Listening to Pashto news audios and explain their contents
- Listen to Pashto audio/video presentations and translate/transcribe them
- Construction of small and simple sentences with the use of nouns, adjectives, verbs and making plurals
- Practice simple situational dialogues (about greetings, and meetings, etc)
- Practice Pashto numbers and use them in sentences
- Research at least two Pashto cultural topics from Afghanistan and/or Pakistan.
- Learn around 100-150 new Pashto words and use them in sentences

By the end of this unit students will be able to: a) know the shapes and sounds of Pashto alphabets; b) greet and converse with teacher, fellow students and common people using appropriately polite and respectful vocabulary and speaking style; c) identify basic-need objects in and outside the classroom; d) discuss and practice basic commands; for instance, come, go, sit, stand, and so on; e) introduce her/himself, her/his family and work confidently; f) identify and write Pashto numerals up to 50.

Week – 3 & 4 – Moving Forward:

Following Topics/tasks will be covered during this unit:

- Learn and practice conversations on multiple topics, such as directions, timings, sizes and shapes, greetings, parts of the body, ordering a meal, asking for help, etc.
- Practice some basic sentence structure (present and simple past tenses)
- Construct medium-length sentences; mainly practicing present and simple past tense
- Read short and simple news articles from authentic sources
- Perform simple numerical questions (addition /subtraction)
- Watch/listen to Pashto songs and transcribe/translate them into English
- Watch a Pashto Drama and discuss the contents
- Research at least two Pashto cultural and/or political topics from Afghanistan and/or Pakistan.
- Learn about 100-150 new words

By the end of this unit students will be able to: a) confidently converse in simple real-life survival situations; b) can perform spoken narrations in present tense about him/herself; c) construct simple and discrete sentences; d) discuss basic news articles; e) narrate a cultural and/or political topic/event; f) identify and write Pashto numerals up to 100.

Week – 5 & 6 – Achieving Accelerate Progress:

Following Topics/tasks will be covered during this unit:

- Work on grammar issues (present, past and future tenses)

- Construct lengthier sentences using appropriate grammatical structures of 'if', 'but' and the six 'w' questions
- Practice situational dialogues (about weather/natural disasters, health issues, occupations, shopping and price negotiation, etc).
- Read and summarize moderately difficult medium length news articles from authentic sources
- Watch a Pashto Drama, read news articles and listen to the music – transcribe and translate them
- Research at least two Pashto cultural, social, economic, and/or political topics from Afghanistan and/or Pakistan.
- Learn about 100-150 new words

By the end of this unit students will be able to: a) confidently participate in discussion regarding his surroundings and real-life situation, b) describe a situation, an object and/or a place; c) can perform spoken narrations in present and simple past tense; c) construct paragraph-length spoken text; d) discuss and summarize basic news articles; e) discuss a cultural and/or political topic; f) to solve basic numeral sums (addition & subtraction).

Week – 7 & 8 – Accomplishing the Goals:

Following Topics/tasks will be covered during this unit:

- Practice situational dialogues (about village life, occupations, government structure, courts, politics, etc.)
- Learn and use some Pashto proverbs
- Read and learn some Pashto poetry
- Research at least two Pashto cultural, political, social, geographical, and/or economic topics from Afghanistan and/or Pakistan
- Watch a Pashto film/drama/skit
- Learn one or two Pashto songs
- Develop and perform a short Pashto skit/drama (can be the final project)

- Learn more than 100-150 new words

By the end of this final unit students will be able to: a) confidently participate in discussion regarding topics relevant to culture, politics and social life of Pashtuns, b) describe an important current event and/or a piece of news; c) produce paragraph-length language narrations in present and simple past tense; c) construct a few sentences long well-comprehended written text; d) discuss and summarize current event news articles; e) comfortably discuss a cultural, social and political topic.

Course Material:

Required Course Packet:

- The instructor will make use of several different sources, books, magazines and newspaper. Material will be emailed to the students and/or uploaded on Learn@UW.
- Supplementary materials (handouts) will also be provided from time to time in the class.
- Pictorial learning material will be provided for better comprehension.

Dictionary:

- No physical dictionary is required for the course; however, Intermediate level students are expected to have their own dictionaries. Online English to Pashto, Pashto to English Dictionary will be used from time to time in the class.
- Electronic (free online) Dictionaries are available on the following website.

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/raverty/>

<http://www.achakzai.de/j/>

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/heston/>

<http://www.qamosona.com>

Video:

During the course of time the course-instructor will show Two Pashto Dramas and possibly one Pashto film. Moreover, online instructional and entertainment videos will also be used in the class and suggested for out-of-class activities.

Audio:

News presentation, Short stories and conversational audio tapes will be used in the class and suggested for out-of-class listening and practice.

Attendance Policy:

Since this is an intense course, all the students are expected to attend all the classes. Only genuine excuses, for instance illness or family emergency, will be accepted. Regularity and punctuality is expected and highly appreciated. More than three days of absence will automatically lower the overall grade.

Requirements:

Proactive class participation, Regular homework, Pop up Quiz (starting the second week), Presentation/review on a Pashto drama, Presentation/review on Pashto film or present to the class on any topic involving reading/listening/speaking and/or writing skills, Final Group Project, Mid-term (end of 4th week) and Final exam.

Assessment/Grading:

- Class participation		40%	(Participation in all class activities + minimum 2- Presentation + Attendance)
- 5 Quizzes	(3% each)	15%	(Pop-up)
- Final Group Project		15%	(End of 7 th week)
- Mid Term Exam	(Oral & Written)	15%	(End of 4 th week)
- Final Exam	(Oral & Written)	15%	(End of 8 th week)

Student Code of Conduct:

The student Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures for the University of Wisconsin is available on the website listed below:

<http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html>

This document outlines the rules and regulations regarding your student rights and responsibilities while a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It states that "Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

- Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- Assists other students in any of the above mentioned acts"

For further details, please see the website listed above for further information.

McBurney Disability Resource Center:

The McBurney Center is available for all students at the University of Wisconsin. The Center offers a wide array of services for students with Disabilities. If you are in need of any of the services provided by the Center, please feel free to contact the McBurney Center staff directly. For a list of the services provided, please visit the website:

<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/services/>

Contact information for the McBurney Disability Resource Center:

905 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53715
608-263-2741 (phone)
263-6393 (tty)
265-2998 (fax)
mcburney@uwmadmail.services.wisc.edu