



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES

CAMPUS BOX 3267
113 NEW WEST
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3267

T 919.962.4294
F 919.843.7817
www.unc.edu/depts/asia

October 14, 2015

Administrative Boards of the College of Arts & Sciences and the General College
Office of Undergraduate Curricula
Campus Box 3504

Dear colleagues,

The Department of Asian Studies would like to propose a new minor in Persian. Persian studies has grown in popularity across UNC with excellent language instruction offered by lecturer Dr. Shahla Adel, and content courses offered by faculty across the college. This fall, we have been authorized to search for an assistant professor of Persian language and culture who will be teaching advanced language courses as well as content courses related to Persian literature and culture. We would like to create this minor so that it is on the books next fall when that hire arrives, thereby encouraging strong enrollments in her or his course offerings. The Persian program has received consistently positive comments from students and there has been interest expressed by students for the creation of a minor program in Persian. With the current global economic and political focus on the Middle East, the time is ripe for creating a minor.

Four semesters of Persian instruction (PRSN 101, 102, 203, 204) are currently available. We are creating two third-year Persian courses (PRSN 305 and 306) which are being proposed concurrently with this minor and which we plan to offer regularly beginning in fall 2016. Dr. Adel has organized several cultural activities that attract student attention to Persian culture, drawing more students into the language program. As a result, enrollments in Persian at UNC rival or surpass those of most of our peer institutions.

The requirements for this four-course minor are similar in structure to the requirements for the minors in Arabic, modern Hebrew, Hindi-Urdu, and Korean that the Administrative Boards of the General College and of the College of Arts and Sciences have approved.

The requirements will be as follows:

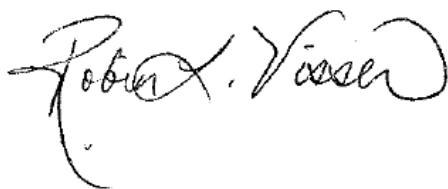
- Three language courses beyond PRSN 203 (first semester Intermediate Persian): PRSN 204, 305, and 306.
- One culture course to be chosen from the following list:
 - ARTH/ASIA 251: Art in the Age of the Caliphs
 - ARTH/ASIA 458: Islamic Palaces, Gardens, and Court Cultures
 - ASIA 122: Introduction to Iranian Culture
 - ASIA 224: Introduction to Iranian Cinema
 - ASIA 435: The Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa

- GEOG/ASIA 447: Gender, Space, and Place in the Middle East
- HIST 74: First-Year Seminar: Emperors, Courts and Consumption: The Mughals of India
- HIST/ASIA 135: History of the Indian Subcontinent to 1750
- HIST/ASIA 138: History of Muslim Societies to 1500
- HIST/ASIA 139: History of Muslim Societies since 1500
- HIST 163: Modern Central Asia
- HIST/ASIA 276: The Modern Middle East
- HIST/ASIA 536: Revolution in the Modern Middle East
- HIST/ASIA/WMST 537: Women in the Middle East
- HIST/ASIA 538: The Middle East and the West
- RELI/ASIA 180: Introduction to Islamic Civilization
- RELI/ASIA 181: Later Islamic Civilization and Modern Muslim Cultures
- RELI 480: Modern Muslim Literatures
- RELI/ASIA 581: Sufism
- RELI/ASIA 582: Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia
- RELI/ASIA 583: Religion and Culture in Iran, 1500-Present
- SOCI 419: Sociology of the Islamic World

The proposed text for the Undergraduate Bulletin is attached. We request a minor code of PRSN, to match the subject code currently in use for Persian courses.

Thank you very much for considering this proposal. If you have further questions, please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,



Robin Visser
Associate Professor and Chair

Persian Minor

The undergraduate minor in Persian consists of four courses. Three courses are language courses beyond PRSN 203 (the first semester of Intermediate Persian). The other course must be chosen from among the following: ARTH/ASIA 251, 458; ASIA 122, 224, 435; ASIA/GEOG 447; ASIA/HIST 135, 138, 139, 276, 536, 538; ASIA/HIST/WMST 537; ASIA/RELI 180, 181, 581, 582, 583; HIST 74, 163; RELI 480; SOCI 419. Placement credit (PL) may not be used to meet minor requirements.