



First and Second Semester Central Eurasian Language: Tajik

M-F 8:30-1:00, Van Hise 386

8 Credits Total: 4 credits each semester

Instructor: Mekhriniso Rakhmatova, PhD

Office Hours: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday

Course Designations and Attributes

Foreign Lang – 1st and 2nd semester foreign language course

Level: Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts credit in Letters & Science

Instructional Mode

Face-to-face

How Credit Hours Are Met

The credit standard for this course is met by an expectation of a total of 180 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit) for each section, which include regularly scheduled instructor: student meeting times, reading, writing, listening/viewing, speaking, problem sets, speaking portfolio, quizzes, role plays, exams, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

Requisites

Enrolled in the Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute (CESSI)

Meeting Time and Location:

M-F at 8:30 am -1:00 pm Central Time

June 17, 2024 - August 11, 2024

386 Van Hise, in-person

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Welcome to the summer intensive course of elementary Tajik. Tajik is a variety of Farsi based languages, which is spoken in Central Asia. Historically, Tajiks called their language zabani farsī, meaning Persian language in English; the term zaboni tojikī, or Tajik language, was introduced in the 20th century by the Soviets. Most speakers of Tajik live in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Tajik is the official language of Tajikistan.

This course provides students with a general knowledge of the current spoken and written Tajik language. It familiarizes students with the Tajik alphabet, common phrases used in real-life conversations and daily routines. Over the course students will explore Tajik and other Central Asian cultures and traditions through videos, pictures, artifacts and encounters with the Tajik speakers.

*While learning the language, the practice of basic language skills such as **grammar, listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture** will be stressed.*

By the end of the language course, students should be able

- *to identify the general topic in familiar and everyday by recognizing word, sentence, and discourse level based language in writing or speaking.*
- *to read texts on familiar and everyday topics and understand the main ideas as well as guess the meaning of new words from the context.*
- *to speak about themselves and their environment, carry out basic transactions related to daily life orally and in writing using the word, sentence, and discourse level language covered over the course of the summer semester.*
- *to communicate in Tajik on familiar everyday topics with the Tajik speakers.*
- *to write short stories and compositions in Tajik.*
- *to recognize and apply culturally relevant aspects of using the Tajik language in familiar and everyday contexts.*

GRADING

Attendance

Due to the intensive nature of this course, attendance is crucial. Missing one day of class equals to missing a whole week of classes during a regular semester. Five bonus points (5%) will be added to the points obtained in the final exam for perfect attendance.

Grading/Requirements:

Homework and quizzes – 30%
 8 Presentations -40%

Individual project – 10%
 4th –week and 8th-week exams – 20%

The letter grade will be awarded as a final grade for the course. The equivalencies of the grades follow below:

Final letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point per Credit
A	92%-100%	4
AB	87%-91%	3.5
B	82%-86%	3
BC	77%-81%	2.5
C	70%-76%	2
D	60%-69%	1
F	0%-59%	0

Homework and Quizzes

You will be assigned homework each day of class, which will be checked in class the following day of class. The failure to do the homework leads to a decrease of the quiz points (1% for each skipped homework). There will be about 6 quizzes. Each quiz will be about 15 minutes long and will be conducted during the second hour of every Friday except the mid-term and final exam days.

Midterm and Final (oral and written exams)

Midterm is scheduled on July 12th .

Final Exam is scheduled on August 6th .

Individual Project

Your individual project is due on the day of the final exam. We will discuss it in class.

Class expectations

Students will be regularly made aware of their respective progress and areas for improvement with the help of homework (every day), weekly quizzes (once a week except 4th and 8th weeks) and the Mid-term exam (4th week). Students who need some extra help are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the office hours.

Required Textbooks:

Khojayori, N. (2009). *Tajiki: An elementary textbook 1*. Georgetown University Press.

Khojayori, N. (2009). *Tajiki: An elementary textbook 2*. Georgetown University Press.

<https://georgetownuniversitypresstextbooks.com/tajiki/elementaryvolume1/chapter-1/>

Recommended book:

Khojayori, N. & Thompson, M. (2009). *Tajiki: Reference grammar for Beginners*.

Georgetown University Press.

NOTE: You do not have to purchase the reference book. Its content will be integrated into the instruction.

Note: Syllabus is flexible; your input is very welcome. It is also subject to change and will be appropriated according to students' learning progress throughout the course.

Semester 1 (An Elementary Textbook 1)

# Weeks	Topics	Grammar/Vocabulary	Language and Culture
Week 1	Chapter 1: Tajik Cyrillic Alphabet Chapters 3 & 4: Introductions Chapter 2: Describing a classroom	Pronunciation of sounds in Tajik Cyrillic handwriting Personal pronouns Numerals Demonstrative and personal pronouns	What do we know about Tajik? How is it different from other Central Asian languages? What are the pragmatics of greetings and farewells in Tajik society? Great Silk Road and the role of Tajik language throughout the history Tajik names
Week 2	Chapter 3: Prepositions of place	Personal predicate endings Negative and interrogative sentences Expressing existence and Nonexistence (<i>there is, there is not</i>) Numbers & Commands Definite direct object Prepositions of place and noun-building suffixes	Tajik currency Classroom expressions Geography of Tajikistan Ethnic population of Tajikistan Varieties of Tajik Education in Tajikistan
Week 3	Chapter 4: Nationalities and places of origin Chapter 5: Talking about the weather and time	Possessive endings Question words Suffixes for place of origin and nationality Titles Past tense of "to be" Past time markers Numbers above 10 Ordinal numbers Days of the week	The relationships among Tajik speaking people of Central Asia Superstitions Prominent People Modern Tajik Music

Week 4	Chapter 6: Talking about family	Possessive verb Simple Past Tense Adjectives: Comparatives and Superlatives	Family relationships Shopping Culture Tajik holidays Dushanbe
	Chapter 7: Shopping	Compound Verbs Consonantal voicing Kinship terms Demonstratives	
	REVIEW MID-TERM	REVIEW MID-TERM	REVIEW MID-TERM

Semester 2 (An Elementary Textbook 2)

Week 5	Chapter 1: Sport	Likes and Dislikes Present continues tense	Popular sports in Tajikistan
	Chapter 2: Around the table	Uses of the infinitive Present-future tense Adverbs of necessity Verb “to want” with infinitive Present participle	Delicious Central Asian and Tajik dishes The role of food in family gatherings Cooking Eating out
Week 6	Chapter 3: Talking about clothing, travel experiences, months and seasons, holidays	Present perfect tense Adverbs Adjectival prefixes and suffixes	Tajik weddings Tajik fashion Traditional Tajik medicine
	Chapter 4: Body parts, visiting a doctor	Plurals Present subjunctive, present and past conditionals	
Week 7	Chapter 4: Talking about the weather and seasons, Discussing natural disasters	Conditional Mood Telling time Future tense Verb “to want” with present subjunctive	Geography and climate Natural disasters Asking for help Higher Education in Tajikistan and Central Asia
	Chapter 5: College life	Verb “to be able to” with present subjunctive	Student life
	Chapter 6: City and countryside	Past tense of “to want” and “to be able to”	Urban versus rural Tajikistan Transportation

Week 8	Chapters 7: Ready to visit Tajikistan? REVIEW FINAL EXAM	Diminutive suffixes Indirect sentences REVIEW FINAL EXAM	Religion Architecture Legacy REVIEW FINAL EXAM
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RULES, RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- See the Guide's [Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison's community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. For more information, refer to studentconduct.wiscweb.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

McBurney Disability Resource Center syllabus statement: "The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA."

<http://mcburney.wisc.edu/facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php>

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Institutional statement on diversity: "Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals."

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.” <https://diversity.wisc.edu>.