

Syllabus		
Course	Lecture course	
Category	Linguistics / Literature	
Class name	Medieval Muslim Mirrors for Princes: The Case of Persian Political Advice Literature	
Class code	LEEA002-1	
Group/Private	Group (Starting from 5 participants)	
Number of classes	5 times	
Schedule (Start to end)	From: 15 April 2023 to 17 June 2023 (4/15, 4/29, 5/20, 6/3, 6/17)	Spring term
Day of week	Saturdays	
Time of class	20:00 - 21:00 (60 min., Online from Tokyo) 7:00-8:00 (60 min., Online from Toronto)	
Class form	Online lecture (Zoom)	
Language	In English	
Class fee	¥17,500	
Application deadline	8 April 2023	

Class summary and objectives

Learning Objectives:

Students can expect the following through successful completion of this course:

- An integral vision of the history of writing Muslim pedagogical manuals in the genre of “mirrors for princes” in the Perso-Islamic literary culture, and its Pre-Islamic and non-Muslim background.
- Learn about the courtly literature for the education of princes as the future kings.
- Gain general acquaintance with the canonical texts in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish literatures from the Middle Ages.

Read fragments from the Persian medieval “mirrors for princes” in Persian and in English translation.

Class contents

Course description:

The “mirror for princes” genre of literature offers advice to a ruler, or ruler-to-be, about kingship and governance of the people. Through this course, the tradition of preparing texts in this genre will be introduced, and the major themes and qualifications elaborated for the pedagogy of princes will be presented. This includes political legitimacy, the rulers’ responsibilities, the maintenance of social stability, causes of unrest, licit and illicit uses of force, the governmental offices and the status and rights of diverse social groups. We will see how this body of literature reflects and responds to the circumstances and conditions of their era. Students will read selections from three major Persian “mirror for princes” from the medieval period along with their English translations:

Qābus-nāma by Kaykāvus ibn Iskandar.

Naṣīhat al-mulūk by Ghazali.

Sīyar al-mulūk by Nizām al-mulk.

Text book(s)

Class material will be provided by the lecturer in PDF format before each class if needed.

Reference(s)

- Askari, Nasrin (2016). *The Medieval Reception of the Shāhnāma as a Mirror for Princes*. Leiden: Brill.
- Marlow, Louise (2023). *Medieval Muslim Mirrors or Princes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nizām al-Mulk. *The Book of Government or Rules for Kings: The Siyar al-Muluk or Siyasat-nama of Nizam al-Mulk*. Translated by Hubert Darke. 2nd ed. Persian Heritage Series 32. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978.
- . *Siyar al-mulūk (Siyāsat-nāma)*. Edited by Hubert Darke. (English title p.: Siyar al-Mulūk also Known as Siyāsat-nāma of Nizām al-Mulk). Majmū’a-yi mutūn-i fārsī 8. Tehran: Bungāh-i tarjuma va nashr-i kitāb, 1340/1962.
- Ghazālī Ṭūsī, Imām Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad. Ghazālī’s Book of Counsel for Kings (*Naṣīhat al-mulūk*). Translated by F. R. C. Bagley. London: Oxford University Press, 1964.
- . *Naṣīhat al-mulūk*. Edited by Jalāl al-Dīn Humā’ī. Anjuman-i āṣār-i millī 90. Tehran: Anjuman-i āṣār-i millī, 1351/1972.
- ‘Unṣur al-Ma’ālī Kaykā’ūs b. Iskandar b. Qābūs, *A Mirror for Princes: The Qābūs Nāma*, trans. Reuben Levy (London: Cresset, 1951).
- . *Qābūs Nāma*. Edited by Ghulām-Hussain Yūsifi. Tehran: ‘Ilmī-u Farhangī.

Lecturer profiles



Pegah Shahbaz, PhD

Resume: Pegah Shahbaz is a specialist of Persian literature of Iran, Central and South Asia. She completed her Ph.D. in Persianate Studies at the University of Strasbourg. While she was in France, she had been teaching English and running an English school .

She has been teaching and working various research projects at several universities in the world, like Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, McGill University, Leiden University, Sorbonne Nouvelle Université – Paris 3, and etc.

She is currently a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Link: <https://iranianstudies.utoronto.ca/people/shahbaz-pegah/>

***Kimiya is only responsible for the organization of the courses with qualified experts and lecturers. The lecturer has the responsibility of the scientific and cultural value of his/her course.