

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

ARAMAIC 120 – ARAMAIC I

5 hours lecture, 5 units

Catalog Description

Acquaints students with the classical-modern Aramaic alphabet, essentials of grammar and pronunciation and the Chaldean-Assyrian culture and civilization. The origin of the Semitic languages will be surveyed through selected readings and discussions.

Prerequisite

None

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a working knowledge of classical-modern Aramaic grammar
- 2) Use essential vocabulary to read and write in Aramaic
- 3) Converse in modern Aramaic (Chaldean)
- 4) Define more than 300 vocabulary words
- 5) Describe the social, geographic, cultural and historical aspects of the Chaldean people

Special Materials Required of Student

Dictionary

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom with writing boards, tape recorder, projector screen, maps of Middle East and Mesopotamia - Iraq

Course Content

- 1) Introduction to the Semitic languages, especially the Aramaic language
- 2) How to read, write and pronounce the 22 Aramaic alphabet and the 11 additional sounds
- 3) Presentation of Aramaic vocabulary (classical-modern) and Aramaic numbers
- 4) Conversation in spoken Aramaic (Chaldean)
- 5) History of the Chaldean people
- 6) Discussion of cultural differences between the Chaldean people and that of the United States
- 7) Presentation of authentic reading material through library resources and Internet research

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and presentation of communicative activities and supporting language structures
- 2) Repetition
- 3) Paired and group activities
- 4) Discussion of cultural content

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Written, oral chapter tests
- 2) Homework assignments
- 3) Quizzes, midterm, comprehensive final exam

Texts and References

- 1) Required: Bazzi, Beginner's Handbook of the Aramaic Alphabet, 1987.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Speak in formulaic expressions relating to daily life, environment and routine activities such as simple greetings, leave-takings and courtesy expressions, family members, numbers, time, dates, colors and basic objects in the immediate environment

- 2) Function primarily with learned words, phrases and formulaic expressions to list, enumerate, identify and express minimal courtesies and agreement and disagreement
- 3) Comprehend and produce simple formulaic texts such as schedules, addresses, phone numbers, ads
- 4) Speak, understand and use essential vocabulary to read the Aramaic literature
- 5) Apply vocabulary having to do with the family, shopping, home life, weather, seasons and food
- 6) Describe the social, geographic, cultural and historical aspects of the Chaldean people
- 7) Identify and discuss differences/similarities between U.S. and Chaldean cultures in family life, food and geography