

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

**ARABIC 120 – ARABIC I**

5 hours lecture, 5 units

**Catalog Description**

Introductory course to the Arabic language and the culture of its speakers. Facilitates the practical application of the language in everyday oral and written communication at the beginning novice level. Since the focus will be on basic communication skills, the class will be conducted in modern standard Arabic as much as possible. While becoming familiar with the Arabic speaking world, students will learn structures that will enable them to function in Arabic in everyday contexts.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Use and understand modern standard Arabic well enough to be able to function in simple everyday situations
- 2) Derive meaning from authentic written materials including ads, menus, cartoons, songs and other informational texts
- 3) Communicate in writing in the form of brief notes, messages, postcards and letters
- 4) Compare and contrast the role of parents and children, the role and status of women, Muslim and Christian holidays, education, and customs and traditions in different Arabic speaking countries with those of the learner in order to gain better understanding of the language, customs, attitudes and social mores
- 5) Demonstrate basic knowledge of Arabic geography, history, music, art and institutions
- 6) Differentiate between the modern standard Arabic sound system, structure and vocabulary and that of their own first language

**Special Materials Required of Student**

None

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

- 1) Standard classroom with writing boards, bulletin board, maps
- 2) VCR/monitor, overhead projector/screen, cassette recorder, CD player, laser disc player, target language maps, video camera, multimedia computer with software

**Course Content**

- 1) Listening and speaking tasks organized around thematic units on simple everyday topics to convey greetings, make introductions, ask and answer questions appropriate to personal needs in and out of the classroom
- 2) Presentation of basic Arabic geography, history, music, art, institutions, customs and culture in general
- 3) Discussion of cultural differences between the Arabic speaking world and the students' own cultures in the areas of the role of parents and children, the role and status of the Arab woman, Muslim and Christian holidays, education, and customs and traditions in general
- 4) Presentation of grammar explanations to facilitate the acquisition and oral production of the language
- 5) Development of students' writing skills to enable them to produce in writing what they can communicate orally
- 6) 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) Discussion of cultural content
- 3) Asking/answering questions
- 4) Paired and group activities

**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) Periodic written, oral evaluation (listening/reading comprehension, speaking and writing)
- 2) Periodic tests
- 3) Midterm (comprehensive)
- 4) Final exam (oral, written)

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required:
  - a. Brustad, Kristen et al. Al-Kitaab fii Taallum al-Arabiyya, Part I. Georgetown University Press, 1995.
  - b. Sayegh, Lily. First Arabic Handwriting Workbook. International Book Centre, 1979.

- c. Wightwick, Jane and Mahmoud Gaafar. Your First 100 Words in Arabic. Passport Books, 1999.
- 2) Supplemental: Arabic/English dictionary

**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 Arabic 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 Arabic people
- 7) Identify and discuss differences/similarities between U.S. and Arabic culture in family life, food and geography