

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

ARAMAIC 120 – ARAMAIC I

5 hours lecture, 5 units

Catalog Description

Introductory course to the classical-modern Aramaic language, essentials of grammar and pronunciation, and the Chaldean-Assyrian culture and civilization. Facilitates the practical application of the language in everyday oral and written communication at the beginning level. Students will learn structures that will enable them to function in Aramaic in everyday contexts while becoming familiar with the Aramaic speaking world. The origin of the Semitic languages will be surveyed through selected readings and discussions. *Content equivalent to two years of high school language study.*

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Presentation of the Semitic languages, especially the Aramaic language
- 2) Development of reading, writing and pronunciation skills
- 3) Presentation of Aramaic alphabet, vocabulary (classical-modern) and Aramaic numbers
- 4) Development of conversation in spoken Aramaic
- 5) Discussion of history of the Chaldean people
- 6) Discussion of cultural differences between the Chaldean and Western culture
- 7) Presentation of authentic reading material through library resources and Internet research

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify spoken Aramaic words and phrases dealing with the family, social gatherings and prayer services in order to communicate personal information and daily activities.
- 2) Interpret and apply the Aramaic sound system in order to identify and use proper pronunciation when speaking in modern Aramaic.
- 3) Apply the Aramaic sound system, alphabet, present tense, vowels and nouns in order to identify and use proper pronunciation when speaking.
- 4) Interpret vocabulary related to daily life such as family names, parts of body, colors, food, clothing, weather, salutations and who/what questions in order to communicate daily routines, family information, and numbers.
- 5) Utilize appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures to communicate in writing greetings, daily prayers, and student's name in modern Aramaic.
- 6) Compare and contrast social, geographic, cultural and historical aspects of the Chaldean people to Western culture as reflected in the Aramaic language.
- 7) Use language and vocabulary skills developed to derive meaning from simple sentences in modern Aramaic.

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 and oral exams that demonstrate students' ability to read, write and speak the Aramaic sound system.
- 2) Written assignments in which students must use appropriate vocabulary and grammar to write simple sentences.
- 3) Oral presentations in which students demonstrate the ability to communicate personal information and daily activities.
- 4) Comprehensive oral and written final exam that measures students' ability to utilize appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures as identified in class to communicate daily routines, family information, and numbers.

Special Materials Required of Student

Dictionary

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom with tape recorder, projector screen, maps of Middle East and Mesopotamia - Iraq

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

Out-of-Class assignments

- 1) Preparation for oral presentations
- 2) Reading assignments
- 3) Written assignments

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Bazzi, Michael. *Aramaic Language. Chaldean Dialogue – Read, Write, and Speak the Modern Aramaic in Chaldean Vernacular*. St. Peter Chaldean Cathedral, 2011.
- 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 related to daily life, environment and routine activities such as simple greetings, leave-takings, 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, and phone numbers.
- 4) Speak, understand and use essential vocabulary to read 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate understanding and use of the present tense in reading, writing, speaking & listening activities.
- 2) Compare & contrast theme specific aspects of Aramaic culture to their own.