

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**ARABIC 145 – ARABIC CIVILIZATIONS**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

Introduction to the major characteristics of Arabic civilization as reflected in literature, philosophy, architecture, and the arts of Arabic countries. This course may have an emphasis on a selected Arabic country or countries. This course will be taught in Arabic.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Content**

- 1) Introduction to Arabic Civilizations
  - a. Characteristics of a Civilization
  - b. Common Misconceptions about Arabs
  - c. Arabic Perspective vs. Western Perspective
- 2) Civilizations of Sumerian
  - a. City-states in Mesopotamia
  - b. Ubaid period
  - c. Language and writing
  - d. Architecture/Mathematics/Economy/Arts & Music
- 3) Pharaonic civilization/Ancient Egypt
  - a. Government and Economy
  - b. Social and Legal system
  - c. Culture, Religious Beliefs, and Medicine
- 4) Jahiliyyah era
  - a. Pre - Islamic literature
  - b. Religious and historical significance
  - c. Tribal Nervousness
- 5) Umayyad Caliphate
  - a. Incorporation and succession
  - b. Social status and legal system
  - c. Architecture/ Economy/ Arts & Music
- 6) Abbasid Caliphate
  - a. Abbasid Revolution
  - b. Abbasid Golden Age
  - c. Glass, crystals, pottery, and textiles
  - d. Status of women
  - e. Decline of the Empire
- 7) Arab civilization in Andalusia
  - a. Umayyad Emirate and Caliphate of Córdoba
  - b. Arabic Lifestyle/ Arabic music
  - c. Arabic Civilization in arts, writing and calligraphy
  - d. Architecture in Andalusia
  - e. Decline of the Andalusia Empire
- 8) The Role of Women in Arabic Civilizations

- a. Values & norms
  - b. Women & economy
  - c. Women & politics
  - d. Family Relations
- 9) Women over civilizations in terms of customs and traditions
- a. Sumerian civilization
  - b. Assyrian Empire
  - c. Pharaonic civilization
  - d. The Age of Islam
- 10) Characteristics of Arabic literature in the pre - Islamic era.
- 11) Geography of the Middle East
- a. The Arabian Peninsula's Great Geography
  - b. Boundaries/Aridity and water/ Cityscapes

### **Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Compare and contrast Arabic cultures.
- 2) Compare and contrast the cultural differences of selected Arabic civilizations and describe and analyze aspects of the cultures.
- 3) Describe major characteristics of Arabic civilizations as reflected in literature, philosophy, architecture, and the arts.
- 4) Compare and contrast lifestyles of Arabic civilizations based on characteristics presented in class.

### **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/or oral exams that measure students' ability to compare and contrast aspects of Arabic culture presented in class and to compare the aspects to other cultures.
- 2) Written and/or oral exams that measure students' ability to compare and contrast Arabic cultures and lifestyles and describe and analyze the aspects of the cultures.
- 3) Research paper(s) that measure students' ability to describe major characteristics of Arabic civilizations as reflected in literature, philosophy, architecture, and the arts.

### **Special Materials Required of Student**

None

### **Minimum Instructional Facilities**

Smart classroom with overhead projector

### **Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Class and group discussion
- 3) Research

### **Out-of-Class assignments**

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

**Texts and References**

- 1) Recommended (representative example): *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East (Understanding: Introductions to the States and Regions of the Contemporary World)*. 5th edition. By Jillian Schwedler. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2019.
- 2) Supplemental: Readings based on countries of emphasis and assignments

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1) Identify major characteristics of Arabic civilizations.
- 2) Compare and contrast theme-specific aspects of Arabic culture.