

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/English.

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) Arab Civilizations in North Africa (Al Maghreb Al Arabi)

9) The Role of Women in Arabic Civilizations

- a. Values & norms
- b. Women & economy
- c. Women & politics
- d. Family Relations

10) Women over civilizations in terms of customs and traditions

- a. Sumerian civilization
- b. Assyrian Empire
- c. Pharaonic civilization
- d. The Age of Islam

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) Increase understanding of Arabic civilizations and cultures by analyzing authentic reading materials such as newspapers, articles, and documentary multimedia resources to understand and adapt to different cultures.
- 2) Develop analytical study skills, including critical reading, writing, and analysis of multimedia resources.
- 3) Compare and contrast the cultural differences of selected Arabic civilizations and discuss and analyze aspects of these cultures.
- 4) Describe major characteristics of Arabic civilizations as reflected in literature, philosophy, architecture, and the arts.
- 5) Compare and contrast all or some parts of the cultural heritage of the different Arabic civilizations based on characteristics presented in class. Topics might include, but will not be limited to, social, spiritual, and philosophical values in addition to music, art, literature, and language.

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 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) Formative and summative tests to evaluate students' performance and understanding of Arab cultures.
- 4) 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 and presentations by the instructor

- 2) Individual and group projects of cultural content and current events
- 3) Multimedia presentations and interactive activities
- 4) Collaborative learning activities such as discussions and peer review.
- 5) Students' reflections and peer feedback.
- 6) Research

Out-of-Class assignments

- 1) Preparation for oral individual and group presentations
- 2) Reading assignments
- 3) Writing assignments

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples, recommended):
 - a. Early Civilizations and Urban Societies, Ancient Mesopotamia & Ancient Egypt- OER. Authored, remixed, and/or curated by [OpenStax](#).
 - b. The Modern Middle East: A History. 5th edition, by James L. Gelvin. Oxford University Press Publisher, 2020.
- 2) Supplemental:
 - a. Readings based on countries of emphasis and assignments.
 - b. Handouts and course content will be provided by the instructor. The course readings consist of selected passages from multicultural e-books and papers, diverse literary texts, narrated PowerPoint presentations, lectures, and videos prepared by the instructor.

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 world.