

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

ARABIC 256 – CONVERSATIONAL LEVANTINE DIALECT

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course is an intermediate level conversation class with an emphasis on building vocabulary and developing communication skills using Levantine Arabic dialect ('lahjah shamiyyah'). The course aims on but not limited to develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in a wide range of cultural contexts to enable students to interact effectively in everyday situations where Levantine Arabic is spoken.

Prerequisite

"C" grade or higher or "Pass" in Arabic 121 or 122 or 123 or 220 or 221 or three years of high school Arabic or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Participate in formal conversations relating to daily life and dealing with topics such as health, work and leisure activities in the past, present, and future time frames using Modern Standard Arabic.
- 2) Comprehend increasingly complex texts such as short newspaper items, commercials, signs, poems, and songs.
- 3) Speak with increased intelligibility and create simple sentences expressing their own ideas using Modern Standard Arabic.
- 4) Write short paragraphs, notes, and letters on topics related to daily life and personal opinions.
- 5) Identify and discuss differences and similarities between Arabic cultures and their own.

Course Content

Topics may include, but need not be confined to, the following and should include relevant cross-cultural perspectives whenever possible:

- 1) Listening and speaking tasks organized from Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Jordanian television, radio, films, music, and theater to promote/deepen understanding of Levantine and Arab culture.
- 2) Using culturally relevant vocabulary and idiomatic expressions necessary within Levantine Arabic for the essentials of daily situations and current events.
- 3) Individual and group discussions about everyday issues and cultural topics that help gain a broad use of the Levantine dialect.
- 4) Grammar explanations to reinforce the acquisition and oral production of the language.
- 5) Development of students' knowledge of culturally related vocabulary and idioms such as proverbs and sayings of everyday situations.
- 6) Authentic reading materials from a diverse selection of authors and topics as a basis for discussions and presentations.
- 7) Analysis of current issues using articles and books authored by diverse writers.
- 8) Cultural differences between the Levantine culture and the students' own cultures.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Increase understanding of Levantine idioms and common phrases that relate to everyday situations such as: Proverbs, sayings, religious and cultural expressions, all using Levantine dialect.
- 2) Identify differences in pronunciation and usage among Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian speakers
- 3) Differentiate between contexts where dialects and Modern Standard Arabic should be used.
- 4) Develop students' proficiency and cultural communication skills in Levantine Arabic
- 5) Recognize & produce the Levantine dialect accurately by employing various survival vocabulary, phrases, and basic conversations in simple standard Levantine Arabic.
- 6) Participate in groups discussions to analyze authentic reading materials such as newspaper articles and short essays.
- 7) Comprehend and use relevant cultural concepts, idioms, and socio-cultural expressions to communicate in everyday situations
- 8) Analyze non-technical speech & audio/video texts in everyday spoken Levantine dialect.
- 9) Student-to-student interactive activities using Levantine dialect to enhance communicative skills.
- 10) Gain knowledge of Levantine dialect while learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures in a simple and systematic way.
- 11) Discuss and analyze the Levantine Arabic cultures and compare them to their own and other cultures.

Method of Evaluation

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

- 1) Exams and quizzes that measure students' ability to use Levantine dialect in discussions of the various Arabic idiom's questions studied in class.
- 2) Periodic written and oral evaluation of students' performance in listening, reading comprehension, speaking, and writing.
- 3) Periodic tests to evaluate students' interim progress.
- 4) Formative and summative tests to evaluate students' performance.
- 5) Assessment, descriptive criteria, or rubric to clarify desired outcomes.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom, white boards, and maps in Arabic.

Method of Instruction

- 1) Communicative activities and supporting language structures.
- 2) Individual and group discussions of cultural content and current events.
- 3) Multimedia presentations and interactive activities.
- 4) Collaborative learning activities such as discussions, Zoom breakout groups, and peer review.
- 5) Students' reflections and peer feedback.
- 6) Guest speakers from Levantine speaking countries.

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Regular homework assignments
- 2) Individual and group projects.
- 3) Canvas interactive content.
- 4) Formative and summative quizzes.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): None
- 2) Supplemental:
 - a. A Dictionary of Levantine Arabic: English-Arabic, Arabic-English (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Languages and Linguistics) (Arabic Edition) eBook – PDF Version .
 - b. The Comprehensive Guide to Levantine Arabic (Levantine Arabic Collection) Paperback – February 15, 2020.
 - c. Shou fi ma fi? Intermediate Levantine Arabic. By Rajaa Chouairi. Edited by Mahdi Alish.
 - d. *Arabiyyat al-Naas (Part One): An Introductory Course in Arabic, DVD Edition*, by Munther Younes, Makda Weatherspoon, Maha Saliba Foster, (Routledge, 2013).
 - e. Lang Media materials online at <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/arabic/>

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Use the Levantine dialect professionally in common phrases and idioms that relate to everyday situations such as, proverbs, sayings, religious and cultural expressions.
- 2) Analyze, discuss, compare, and contrast the most important cultural values, traditions and customs of the Levantine culture and the Arab World.