

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Arabic 130 – Arabic Literature and Culture

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course surveys Arabic Literature masterpieces and/or Arabic literature in translation. The course focuses on the historical, social, religious, socio-political, philosophical, and cultural aspects of Arabic literature. It will be a great choice for Arabic learners, heritage speakers, native and non-native speakers of Arabic. A diverse selection of texts in Arabic and/or English is read and discussed to expand students' cultural horizons. Reading selections include works from the Pre-Islamic period, Islamic, Umayyads, Abbasids, and Modern period. Works of classical and modern writers will be included, in addition to prominent Arab-American and women writers.

Prerequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

"C" grade or higher or "Pass" in Arabic 121 or equivalent or "C" grade or higher or "Pass" in ENGL 120 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

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

- 1) Critically read and analyze a text at the college level in English and /or Arabic
- 2) Write college level essays in English and/or Arabic

Course Content

- 1) Arabs before Islam: Overview
 - a. Pre-Islamic Prose: Selected Texts
 - b. Pre-Islamic Poetry: Al-Mu'allaqat
- 2) The Rise of Islam: Overview
 - a. Poetry of Women: Al-Khansaa'
 - b. Islamic Prose: Last Sermon, Mohammad's Biography
- 3) The Umayyads: Overview
 - a. Pure and Sublime Love: Layla's Mad Lover (Qays Ibn Al-Mulawwah
 - b. Letters and Wills: Al-Rassa'el , Al-Wasaya
- 4) The Golden Age- Abbasids: Overview
 - a. Classical Prose: Kalila Wa Dimna (Ibn Al-Muqaffa)
 - b. Classical Literature and Culture:
 1. The Book of Songs (Abu Faraj Al-Isfahani)
 2. Consorts of the Caliphs (Ibn Al-Sai)
 3. Travels to Strange Lands (Vikings, Hindus, Crusaders)
 - c. Classical Schools of Poetry:
 - d. Metaphorical School-Abu Tammam
 - e. Classical School-Al-Mutanabbi
 - f. Philosophical School-ALMa'arri
 - g. Modernist School-Abu-Nuwas
 - h. The Assemblies: Al-Maqamat

- i. Islamic Philosophy: Ibn Sina (Avicenna)
- j. Mysticism (Sufism): (Al-Ghazali, Ibn- Arabi)
- 5) Pre-Modern: Overview
 - a. The Folkloric Tradition: The Arabian Nights, National Heroes (Antarah Ibn Shaddad)
 - b. Andalusi Literature: Ibn Hazm of Cordoba, Muwashahat
 - c. Philosophy of History: Al-Muqaddimah (Ibn Khaldoun)
- 6) Modern Period: Overview
 - a. Arab American Literature
 - 1. Early 20th Century Representation-Gibran Khalil Gibran
 - 2. Arabs in the Us After 9/11- Randa Jarrar,
 - 3. Gender, Religion, and Citizenship (Carol Fadda-Conrey)
 - b. Voices of Women- Latifah al Zayyat (The Open Door)
 - c. Critical Thoughts on Culture
 - d. Criticism Literature
 - e. Political Movements
 - f. Autobiographies
 - g. Modern Novel
 - h. Modern Poetry

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify cultural standards, themes and stylistic characteristics of major literary works of Arabic literature and/or translated literature.
- 2) Identify the literary forms used at different times and recognize how the various forms represented the cultural status of the period.
- 3) Identify and apply literary terms and ideas related to the content and period studies, in discussions and in writing.
- 4) Identify, discuss, and analyze literature of women writers and Arab-American writers.
- 5) Identify, discuss, and analyze Arabic literature of different areas and cultures.
- 6) Interpret, analyze, and critique literary works against a background of the cultural, historical, social and philosophical developments of time period and location.
- 7) Critically analyze and make connections between the literature and the time period.
- 8) Analyze and understand the specific formal and thematic characteristics of the major writers studied.
- 9) Write critical analysis essays, stating a thesis and supporting it with information within the text and from sources.

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 measure the student's ability to identify cultural standards, themes and stylistic characteristics, identify literary forms used in different periods; correctly use literary terms and ideas.
- 2) Essays that measure the student's ability to critically interpret and analyze literary works from cultural, historical, social and philosophical perspectives, and analyze specific formal and thematic characteristics of major writers studied.
- 3) Final exam that measures the student's ability to critically analyze works and authors studied utilizing support from the text.
- 4) Reading journals and oral participation in discussions that measure the student's ability to identify cultural standards, themes, stylistic characteristics and literary forms used in different types of Arabic literature.
- 5) Group and individual projects.

Special Materials Required of Student

Collegiate Arabic-English and/or English-Arabic dictionary

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Standard lecture classroom with moveable chairs, whiteboards, overhead projector, and permanent smart cart.

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion in English and/or Arabic
- 2) Small group discussion, exercises
- 3) Peer commentary
- 4) Journals
- 5) Response papers
- 6) Essays
- 7) Literary analysis paper
- 8) Oral presentations
- 9) Self-assessment

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Assigned readings
- 2) Reading responses, short writing assignments, and papers
- 3) Library research
- 4) Individual and group projects

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Mas'ud, Jubran. *Arabic Literature*. Hachette Antoine, Beirut, 2016. ISBN-13: 9786144385180.
 - b. *Altameemi, Huda. Arabic Literature Through Ages* الأدب العربي عبر العصور. Dar Al Saqi, 2017. ISBN: 6140300169, 9786140300163
 - c. Frangieh, Bassam K. *Anthology of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Thought from Pre-Islamic Times to the Present*. Yale University Press, 2005. ISBN 0300104936, 9780300104936
 - d. Bushrui, Shuheil. *Desert Songs of the Night: 1500 Years of Arabic Literature*. Saqi Books 2015. ISBN 0863561756, 978-0863561757
- 2) Supplemental: Texts selected by instructor

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Use literary terms to discuss, critically analyze, synthesize, and interpret Arabic literary works from cultural, historical, social and philosophical perspectives.
- 2) Identify cultural standards, themes and stylistic characteristics of literary works of different periods and in different genres.