

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY ARA 101 – BEGINNING ARABIC I (4 CR.)

Course Description

Introduces listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and emphasizes basic Arabic sentence structure. Discusses the diversity of cultures in the Arab world. Part I of II. Lecture 4 hours per week. This is a UCGS transfer course.

General Course Purpose

This course will enable students to achieve Arabic proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing at or above the novice-mid level as defined by the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Guidelines. In keeping with the National Standards for Foreign Language Education, the varied cultures (music, art, gastronomy, social mores, and others) of the Arab world are embedded in this language course. This is reflected in our written and oral assessments.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Students must be functionally fluent in English. There are no prerequisites for ARA 101 as it is a course for true beginners. Students with Arabic language proficiency should be evaluated and placed in an appropriate level of Arabic.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Listening:

The student will understand simple sentences starting with the alphabet. First he/she will be able to differentiate between the sounds and phonology of the letters, and understand simple vocabulary. Then, he/she will build on listening comprehension in Modern Standard Arabic. By the end of the semester, students will understand simple spoken Arabic within the limited context presented to beginners.

Speaking:

The student will be able perform simple communication tasks that are limited to the topics covered in class. Students will be able to form simple sentences without verbs, or using simple present tenses. The goal is to speak simple Arabic with correct pronunciation at normal conversational speed.

Reading:

The student will be able to read simple, short texts which contain full vowels, or basic vocabulary that does not contain the vowels. The student will comprehend texts that contain or cover topics that she/he has already learned. As well as, reading selections in rearrangements and combinations of words and expressions already encountered.

Writing:

The student will be able to master writing basic words in Arabic or transliteration in Arabic. Arabic is phonetically spelled. The student will be able to write accurately what the student has learned to understand, say, and read.

Culture:

The ACTFL standards include Culture, Connections, Comparisons and Communities as part of foreign language instruction and assessment. Within these areas, students will be able to:

- Discuss and analyze the relationship between the practices and perspectives of Arab cultures.
- Discuss the relationship between the products and perspectives of Arab cultures.
- Acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the Arabic language and its different cultures.

- Describe the concept of culture through comparisons of the various cultures that are studied and their own.
- Use the language both within and beyond the school setting.
- Read, discuss and write about topics concerning Arabic-speaking cultures featured in textbooks and in the media using Modern Standard Arabic at the novice level.
- Understand the geography of the Arab world, location, capital cities and understand the Dialectal and Cultural Regions of the Arab World.
- (The above areas address general education objectives 3.1-3.5 under Cultural and Social Understanding.)

Major Topics to be Included

- Personal Identification
- School and Classroom
- House and Home
- Inquiring Basic Information
- Family and Life
- Community/Neighborhood
- Physical Environment