GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ARABIC 148 – LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND LITERATURE IN THE ARAB WORLD

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

ARBC 148 Language, Culture and 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

Literature in the Arab 96-108 outside-of-class hours

World 144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

Social, literary and cultural study of the modern Arab societies. Introduction to the peoples and culture of the Arab world as reflected in language and literature. Discussion of linguistic variations as well as differences in cultural habits and practices. Literature, television and culture will form the basis of discussions on major themes. Readings will include novels, newspaper articles and short stories. The course will be taught in English.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Examine gender ideologies and social realities affecting the lives of the Arab peoples through language, literature and the media.

b. Assess and differentiate among the various ideologies, practices, social values, and religious doctrines by analyzing the primary source documents of the Arabic world.

c. Compare and contrast the Arabic influence in the US, in relation to key social issues of the US Arab communities, to that of their home countries.

d. Analyze the complex factors which impact the way of life in Arab societies as illustrated in the Arabic novel and in popular literature.

e. Compare and contrast the cultural differences of the particular selected country, as portrayed in the media and in the cinema, against the general backdrop of the Arabic and the Middle Eastern cultures.

f. Demonstrate knowledge of the various Arabic expressions of art, music, and entertainment and explain how they relate to the culture.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None.

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7. Course Content

a. Geography of the Arab countries and strategic locations.

b. The Arabic language and its different dialects.

c. The complex Arab society.

d. The traditional and non-traditional Arab family.

e. The Arab women.

f. The Muslims and Christians of the Arab world

g. Education system in the Arab world.

h. Arabic art, literature, music, and cinema.

i. The Arab-American communities in the US.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture

b. Class and group discussions.

c. PowerPoint presentations

d. Videotape, DVDs, Internet, CDs

e. Films, tapes

f. Guest speakers

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Periodic exams

b. Individual and group presentations.

c. Class discussions and participation.

d. Research paper on various topics such as:

1) marriage traditions in the Arab world;

2) Arabic influence on Spanish language;

3) Arabic calligraphy;

4) famous Arab-American scientists

5) Arabic short story

e. Written final exam.

f. Reading assignments.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Outside reading assignments from texts and/or selected articles, stories, etc.

b. Independent research for paper on topics such as:

1) marriage traditions in the Arab world;

2) Arabic influence on Spanish language;

3) Arabic calligraphy;

4) famous Arab-American scientists

5) Arabic short story

c. Listening to and viewing of audio and video clips and DVDs

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11. Texts

a. Required Texts and References:

(1) Nydell, Margaret K. *Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners*. Boston: Intercultural Press, 2012.

(2) *Arab Media in the Information Age*. Emirates Center for Strategies Studies: Abu Dhabi, 2006.

(3) Shafik, Viola. *Popular Egyptian Cinema: Gender, Class and Nation.* The American University in Cairo Press, 2007.

(4) Singerman, Diane and Paul Amar (eds.) *Cairo Cosmopolitan, Politics, Culture and Urban Space in the New Globalized Middle East.* The American University in Cairo Press, 2006.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Locate, name and identify all Arab countries and examine the wealth discrepancy of their peoples.
2. Gain a better understanding of the key social issues of the Arab world.
3. Enhance their familiarity with the Arab peoples' customs, traditions and social institutions.
4. Differentiate between local customs, practices, values and religious doctrines.
5. Compare and contrast Arabic attitudes, customs, practices, and way of life with their own.
6. Enhance their familiarity with the art, music, and cinema of the Arab world.

Date approved by the Governing Board: May 19, 2015