

COURSE OUTLINE

Armenian 125 Ancient and Medieval Armenian Literature

Catalog Statement

Armenian 125 provides students with a basic knowledge of Armenian literature and culture from the 5th to the 19th century. Topics covered include the characteristics and evolution of the Armenian language, an overview of Armenian mythology, and ancient and medieval literature.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Laboratory Units: 0.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Prerequisite: ARMEN 102 or 115 or equivalent

Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- communicate orally and in writing in standard/formal Armenian;
- develop greater awareness of heritage language, orthography, and culture;
- compare and contrast two variations of Armenian (Western and Eastern), as well as the various structures of the Armenian language;
- apply fundamental principles of the Armenian grammar and structure;
- develop writing and reading proficiency using the Armenian alphabet.

Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- identify and explain key elements of Armenian mythology;
- apply a basic knowledge of classical Armenian;
- demonstrate knowledge of ancient and medieval historians and their works as literature;
- demonstrate an understanding of ancient and medieval poetry;
- analyze the evolution of the Armenian language before its modernization;
- evaluate minstrel poetry and culture.

Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48.0

Invention of the Armenian Script (3 hours)

The First Translations (3 hours)

The First Original Writers: Koriun and Yeznik Koghbatsi (6 hours)

The Early Historians and Mythology (6 hours)

Agatangelos

Pavstos Buzand

The legend of King Arshak and Shapuh

The legend of Mushegh Mamikonian

Yeghishe and Ghazar Parpetsi

Movses Khorentatsi

Creation myths

Mythical heroes

Technical Subjects: Anania Shirakatsi (3 hours)

Religious Poetry (3 hours)

Grigor Narekatsi

Nerses Shnorhali

The New Literary Idiom Known as Middle Armenian (3 hours)

Armenian Authors of the 11th century (6 hours)

Grigor Magistros

Gregory Vkyaser

Asoghik

Aristakes of Lastivertsi

Schools and Scholarship Through the 11th Century (3 hours)

Eastward Trends in Armenian Genres (3 hours)

Nahapet Kuchak

Freek and the *hayrens*

The Art of Minstrels or *Goosans*: Sayat Nova (3 hours)

Schools, Periodicals, Art and Culture at the End of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century (6 hours)

Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:

- class lecture and discussion;
- group learning;
- guests speakers;
- videos;
- field trips;
- educational technologies including online methods of instruction and the internet.

Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

- research on a given topic and oral presentation (e.g. conduct a research on the influence of mythological symbols in modern Armenian art and present to the class);
- attend cultural events and write an essay (e.g. attend a lecture on battle of Avarayr and write an essay);
- watch a movie or a documentary about Armenian history and write an essay (e.g. watch a documentary about Noah's Ark and write an argumentative essay);
- short essays based on class readings and other materials.

Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

- regular attendance and participation in class activities and discussions;
- oral presentations;
- written essays and exercises;
- literary analysis essay;
- chapter examinations;
- midterm examination;
- final examination.

Textbooks

Reading Materials -Armenian 125 Compilation reader prepared by the department.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the development of ancient Armenian folklore and mythology;
- read critically in order to analyze literary works for themes and other literary elements;
- write thesis-centered essays which analyze and interpret literary, cultural, social, political, geographical and historical themes and other elements from the ancient to the medieval times.