

COURSE OUTLINE

Armenian 127 20th and 21st Century Armenian Literature

Catalog Statement

Armenian 127 provides students with a basic knowledge of Armenian literature from the early 1900s to contemporary authors. Topics covered include the revolutionary poems of the 1920s in Soviet Armenia, the “literature of nostalgia” of the post-genocide Armenian Diaspora, literary hardship and stagnation in Stalinist-era Armenian literature, the stable period of post-Stalinist Armenia, and contemporary literature in both Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora.

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

Note: This course is offered during the Spring semester only.

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 analyze the key elements of Soviet Armenian literature;
- identify and analyze the key elements of the literature of the Armenian Diaspora;
- analyze literary movements both in Soviet Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora;
- demonstrate a knowledge of literary criticism in modern times;

- compare and contrast contemporary poets and prose writers both in Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora;
- describe literary trends in the early 21st century.

Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48.0

The Political and Social Situation of Armenia at the Beginning of the 20th Century **(1 hour)**

Yeghishe Charents (Themes of Revolution in Poetry) **(4 hours)**

Vahan Totovents (in Between Socialist Work Ethic and Bourgeois

Aesthetics with Regard to Artistic Freedom) **(2 hours)**

Zabel Yesayan (the Call to Homeland) **(2 hours)**

Hacob Oshagan (the Writer and the Critique) **(3 hours)**

The “Menk” Movement (a Challenge to Armenian National Identity) **(3 hours)**

Shahan Shanour

Harout Kostandian

Hamo Sahian (Singer of the Earth and the Soul) **(1 hour)**

Khachik Dashtents, Hrachya Kochar, Gourgen Mahari (The Memories Bringing Western Armenia into Light Again) **(3 hours)**

Hovhanness Shriaz (the Sole Fighter for the Lost Homeland) **(2 hours)**

Vahagn Davtyan (Historical Themes in Poetry) **(1 hour)**

Parouyr Sevak (the Intellect and the Conscience Combined) **(3 hours)**

Hrant Matevosian (the Country in a Modern Prose) **(3 hours)**

Perch Zeitountsian (the Playwright with a Western Touch) **(2 hours)**

The Post-Independence Armenian Writers **(6 hours)**

Prose

Levon Khechoyan

Gourgen Khanjian

Poetry

Violet Grigorian

Marine Petrosian

Khachik Manoukian

Hovhannes Grigorian

Artem Haroutyounian

Diasporan Contemporaries **(6 hours)**

Hagop Karapents (in Pursuit of Identity)

Vahe Oshagan (Breaking More Taboos in Literature)

More Diasporan Writers **(6 hours)**

Prose

Vahe Berberian

Ishkhan Jimbashian

Khoren Aramouni

Garnik Sahakyan

Poetry

Ara Kazanjian

Zahrat

Vahe Khrakhuni

Methods of Instruction

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

- class lecture and discussion;
- group learning;
- guests speakers;
- videos;
- 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:

- essays of analysis, evaluation, and argumentation; (e.g. read the short story “Light Blue Flowers” by Vahan Totovents and write an argumentative essay about the main character’s actions and choices);
- research paper on the given topic (e.g. conduct a research on avant-garde movement in the beginning of the 20th century and write a paper);
- attend cultural events and prepare for oral presentations (e.g. attend an international symposium on modern Armenian literature at UCLA and present it to the class);
- watch a movie or a documentary about Armenian history and write an essay (watch a play by modern Armenian playwright Perch Zeitounsian *All Rise, the Court is in Session*, and write an essay);
- answer questions to synthesize information learned in class.

Methods of Evaluation

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

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

Textbooks

Reading Materials -Armenian 127 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 Armenian literature from the beginning of the 20th century to the present time;
- identify the major literary movements and the cultural, social and historical developments in Armenia during the 20th to 21th centuries;

- read and analyze literary works for themes and other literary elements;
- write thesis-centered essays which analyze and interpret literary, cultural, social and political themes in Armenian literature from the 20th century to the 21th century.