

Amideast Education Abroad Programs

ARAB 120: Introduction to Tunisian Sign Language Syllabus

Credit Hours: 1 credit

Contact Hours: 15 contact hours

Program Location: Tunis, Tunisia

Term and Year:

Course Description:

Students are introduced to the alphabet, words, expressions, and structures used frequently in everyday life. Students will also be introduced to the cultural context of Tunisian Sign Language (TSL) and the differences/similarities between American deaf culture and Tunisian deaf culture. Students will practice TSL in class and will have opportunities to engage with Tunisian deaf culture.

This course aims to help students reach a level where they can successfully handle a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in Tunisian Sign Language in straightforward social situations. Conversation in this course focuses on real life exchanges with locals on common topics key to survival in the target language and culture. These topics relate to basic personal information covering, for example, oneself and family, some daily activities, and personal preferences.

Learning Objectives:

By the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Converse on fundamental and basic daily topics with native signers
- Utilize some of the basic structures of Tunisian Sign Language
- Ask essential questions and understand the responses
- Express basic facts and opinions in simple sentences

Knowledge:

This course is designed to assist the students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- Essential vocabulary in Tunisian Sign Language (TSL)
- Basic grammatical forms in TSL
- Culturally appropriate usage of TSL

Skills:

This course is designed to assist students in enriching the following skills:

- Ability to successfully handle a variety of basic communicative tasks and social situations in TSL
- Ability to converse about a variety of basic and social needs.
- Ability to identify some of the differences between American Sign Language and TSL

Attitudes:

This course helps develop the following attitudes:

- Appreciation of Tunisian Sign Language in general
- Cultural awareness to identify the differences and similarities of American and Tunisian deaf culture
- Confidence in linguistic and communicative abilities to interact with native speakers
- Desire to pursue further study of the language

Course Materials:

1. Locally produced materials, selected by program faculty
2. Selected materials from a variety of authentic media

Evaluation and Assessment –**Attendance and Participation (40%):**

Students must attend classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. This means watching the videos and learning new vocabulary and structure so that they can actively use them in class.

For more on the attendance policy, please see the policy posted in the online course and on the Absence request site on the Student Portal.

Assignments (20%):

There will be daily assignments due at the beginning of class on the day designated in the syllabus. Late homework assignments may be checked but will not be given any credit. As part of your assignment grade, you will be asked to complete a final project which will allow you to demonstrate the knowledge gained during the course. Students are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together. It is important to follow up on any instructor's comments on the homework, and it is the students' responsibility to come to office hours or make an appointment to see their instructors.

Quizzes (20%):

There will be 2 quizzes (10% each).

Final Presentation (20%):

The final presentations will be on day 5 of the course.

Course Schedule:

Session	Length	Lesson description	Materials
Session 1	3 contact hours	Introduction to Tunisian Deaf Culture - Alphabet - Introducing Oneself	Videos on Tunisian Deaf Culture Articles from Robert Bosch journal
Session 2	3 contact hours	Differences/Similarities of ASL & TSL - Review: Alphabet - Days/Months	
Session 3	3 contact hours	Review - Colors - Numbers/Money	Quiz: Alphabet

Session 4	3 contact hours	Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Food (e.g., fruits, vegetables, etc.)- Family	Quiz: Introducing Yourself
Session 5	3 contact hours	Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Program-specific vocabulary	Final Presentation to class in TSL

