

SLC-194: First-Year Albanian Syllabus
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Arizona State University

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Significance of the Albanian Language

The Albanian language is spoken in the Republic of Albania and around the world by approximately six million people. There are three million Albanian speakers in the present country of Albania proper and almost two million more in different areas of ex-Yugoslavia. There are estimated to be an additional half-million identifiable Albanian speakers in Southern Italy and in villages in Southern Greece, as well as small enclaves in Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, and Turkey. In the United States, there are some tens of thousands of Albanian speakers, mostly centered in and around the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Chicago. Growing Albanian communities are being formed in the southern states, too.

Albanian is an Indo-European language and forms a special branch within that family. Together with Greek, it is one of the oldest languages of the Balkan Peninsula dating back to the Illyrians. Literary Albanian has a tradition of more than 500 years. During all these years, the Albanian people and its language have waged their way through periods of Ottoman and other invaders' darkness coming out into the light more consolidated, enriched, and developed than ever.

The democratic revolution of 1990 and the opening of Albania to the world has provoked a steady increase of interest in Albania and its national literary language among hundreds of thousands of compatriots in the Albanian diaspora and among foreigners. International involvement in Kosova since 1999 has also increased the demand for instruction in modern Albanian. Today, knowledge of the Albanian language and culture has taken on a new importance to world political and economic security.

Objectives of the Course

This course is based on *Gjuha shqipe për fillestarë*, a book written in collaboration with Héctor Campos, from Georgetown University. We are looking to publish this book next year, so your comments and suggestions will be most appreciated. You will be exposed to the basic functions of Standard Albanian (talking about school, family, your city, renting a room, ordering food, etc.) while learning the basic grammar of the language.

You are expected to build an active vocabulary of about 1000-1500 words. You will master the vocabulary and grammar through numerous exercises that we will do both in class and at home.

The intensive Albanian course is a comprehensive two-level course that takes students from the first introduction to the language and is designed to train English speakers to the U.S. Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) benchmark level 1+ proficiency standards in reading (with other skills exceeding level 1).

Textbook:

1. Mëniku, L., Campos, H. Shqip për fillestarë

Supplementary Materials: (Available in Hayden Library or through department)

1. Basha, Y. And Dheri, V. English-Albanian Dictionary.
2. Newmark, L., et al. Standard Albanian: A Reference Grammar for Students.

Requirements:

In-Class participation	20%
Homework	10%
Weekly tests	20%
Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	30%

Evaluation:

In-class participation will reflect the student's daily preparation and active participation in class discussions conducted between student and teacher or among students themselves. Since foreign language study relies so heavily on listening and speaking practice, attendance and participation are required and count toward the final grade. A student who is chronically late to class, leaves early, or is not prepared to participate will not receive full attendance and participation credit.

Homework consists of grammar problem sets which the student will analyze according to the class analysis discussed every day. Later on, sentence writing with the new words or small compositions will also constitute part of the homework.

Weekly tests will be held every Friday and will cover the vocabulary and grammar taught during the week.

The midterm and final examination will be mainly conducted in written form in full classes, but focus will also be placed on the oral component. Examinations consist of short answer and multiple choice questions in which the student answers various grammatical and vocabulary problems and is asked to make up a conversation or composition related to some personal experience.

Course Outline:

Week1

The Albanian Alphabet, The Pronunciation of Albanian Letters, The Alphabet and Some Common Albanian Names, **Prezantimi dhe përshëndetjet** 'Introductions and Greetings', Subject pronouns in Albanian, The verb JAM in the Present Tense Indicative, The numbers from 0 to 12, Telling time (Part I), Negative and interrogative sentences, **Nga jeni? Çfarë gjuhe flisni?** 'Where are you from?' 'What language do you speak?', The verb FLAS in the Present Tense Indicative, Countries, nationalities and languages, NGA to express origin and the definite nominative form of countries, Addressing someone by name, Numbers from 13 to 99, Telling time (Part II), Weekly test.

Week 2

Ku banoni? 'Where do you live?', The verb PUNOJ and Class 1, The particle PO, The preposition NË 'in, at, Sa vjeç/sa vjeçe 'how old?', The verb KAM 'to have' in the Present Tense Indicative, The verb VIJ 'to come' in the Present Tense Indicative, the preposition TE(K) 'to, at (a place)', The numbers from 100 -1000 and the basic mathematical operations. **Çfarë profesioni keni?** 'What profession do you have?' Singular Masculine, feminine, singular, plural professions and nationalities, The demonstrative forms, The days of the week, The verbs JAP 'to give', DUA 'to want' and THEM 'to say', Inviting someone: A+ Present Tense Indicative, Në ç' orë? 'What time?', The numbers from 1 000 to 10 000, Weekly test.

Week 3

Në shtëpi. At home. Definite Nominative Nouns: Feminine Nouns, Singular Definite Nominative Nouns: Masculine Nouns, KA... 'there is, there are...', MBI 'on' and NËN 'under', Class 2 adjectives: The linking article with singular definite nouns, Class 2 adjectives: Adjective agreement (singular forms), Class 2 adjectives modifying indefinite nouns, The weather, The seasons and the months of the year. **Përsëritje** 'Review', Weekly test.

Week 4

Në shkollë, në kafene. At school, at the coffee shop., The verbs NJOH 'to know' and SHOH 'to see' in the Present Tense Indicative, The Nominative/ Accusative Indefinite Plural: Masculine Nouns, The Nominative/ Accusative Definite Plural: Masculine Nouns, Nationality and Class 1 Adjectives, The Nominative/ Accusative Indefinite Plural: Feminine Nouns, The Nominative/ Accusative Definite Plural: Feminine Nouns, Class 2 adjectives: The linking article with plural definite nouns, Class 2 adjectives: Adjective agreement (plural forms), Class 2 adjectives with Nominative/ Accusative indefinite plurals, Some irregular Class 2 Adjectives in the Plural, Weekly test.

Week 5

Në dyqan. At the store. Class 2 Verbs, Superlative Constructions, Comparative Constructions, Present Subjunctive, the Modal Verbs DUHET 'must', MUND 'can' and the Present Subjunctive, Other Constructions that Require Present Subjunctive, Future Tense, Midterm.

Week 6

Shtëpi dhe hotel. House and hotel. Singular nouns in Accusative Case, Plural nouns in Accusative Case, Prepositions and Accusative Case, The demonstrative forms in Accusative Case, The interrogative pronouns KUSH 'who' and CILI 'which', Class 2 adjectives: The Linking Article with Accusative Definite Nouns, Class 2 adjectives: The Linking Article with Accusative Indefinite Nouns, Ordinal Numbers, Class 3 verbs: HA 'to eat', PI 'to drink', RRI 'to stay' and FLE 'to sleep'. Weekly test.

Week 7

Festat zyrtare në Shqipëri. Official holidays in Albania, Definite Genitive: Singular Forms, Definite Genitive: Plural Forms, Basic Uses of the Genitive Case, Asking Questions with "Whose...", Modifying a Definite Genitive Form, Indefinite Genitives, The Genitive Forms of CILI 'which', The Genitive Forms of the Demonstratives KY 'this' and AI 'that', Weekly test.

Week 8

Rrobat. Clothes. Class 6 Verbs: The Present Tense Indicative of Verbs in -hem, Passive Constructions, Negative, Progressive, Subjunctive and Future of Class 6 Verbs, Dative Pronouns: Strong and Weak Forms, Basic Use of the Dative Case, Dative Case on Nouns, Position of the Dative Clitics, Dative Demonstratives, Dative Forms of KUSH 'who' and CILI 'which'. **Përsëritje.** Final test