

SYLLABUS: ELEMENTARY ARMENIAN

ASU Study Abroad Program in Yerevan

July 26–August 13, 2010

Instructor:

Contact Information

Meeting Place:

Meeting Times: M-F, 0900-1200

Course description and objectives

This course reviews and expands material covered in CLI Elementary Armenian. The key goals of the program are: overcoming any psychological barriers to interacting with native speakers; and mastering the language skills required for real-life communication in Armenian. While focusing on quick adaptation to the language environment, the program also emphasizes the strengthening of listening, speaking and reading skills. Students will practice skills acquired at the Critical Languages Institute. Students will improve their conversational skills with conversation exercises and topic-based dialogs. In addition to reviewing old material, students will study new lexical and grammatical material as well.

Students are expected not only to build up their language skills but also to gain a solid understanding of Armenian culture and daily life. To this end, the program includes an extensive program of excursions and other cultural activities. (See co-curricular program.)

Students are expected to achieve level 1+ (Elementary Plus) on the Interagency Language Roundtable scale. Specifically, upon completion they should:

Listening: Have sufficient comprehension to understand short conversations about survival needs. Show a good ability to understand facts presented at various speeds, although students still may need utterances to be repeated.

Speaking: Be able to initiate and maintain predictable face-to-face conversations and satisfy limited survival needs. Speech may consist largely of a series of short, discrete utterances.

Reading: Have sufficient comprehension to understand simple discourse in printed form. Be able to read material such as announcements, simple prose containing biographical information or narration of events, and newspaper headlines and advertisements. Be able to guess at unfamiliar vocabulary in familiar contexts.

Writing: Have sufficient control of the writing system to meet most survival needs and limited social demands. Be able to write simple letters, summaries of biographical data and work experience with fair accuracy. Writing, though faulty, should be comprehensible to native speakers.

Textbooks:

1. A.V.Gevorkian. East Armenian Course, Yerevan 2000.
2. Dora Sakayan. Eastern Armenian. For the English-Speaking World. Yerevan State University Press. Yerevan. 2007.

CLI recommends that students bring a pocket English-Armenian/Armenian-English dictionary with them

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

	TOPICS	GRAMMAR	CULTURE	notes
WEEK 1	<p>Introductions. Meeting new people.</p> <p>Directions. On the street.</p> <p>Age.</p> <p>Time: days, seasons, telling time.</p> <p>Food. At a grocery store.</p> <p>Meals. Eating out.</p> <p>Clothes. Shopping.</p>	<p>Review of cases, question words, adverbs of place, time expressions, verb tenses, expressing necessity: expressing feelings.</p>	<p>Understanding Armenians: Introduction to Yerevan Formal & informal register.</p>	<p>Excursions will be organised both In Yerevan and out of the city. Survival comprehension lessons will be offered during the first week of class</p>
WEEK 2	<p>Advertisements.</p> <p>Personality. Character.</p> <p>Relationships. Dating. Marriage.</p> <p>Daily activities & hobbies. Sports.</p> <p>Studying. Education.</p> <p>American students vs. Armenian students.</p> <p>Professions. Unusual jobs.</p> <p>Dreams.</p> <p>Problem solving role plays</p>	<p>Review of adjective degrees, verbs of position and motion, verbs of studying, review of verbal aspect, conditional mood (introduction)</p>	<p>Youth slang, Armenian anecdotes, popular music, cinema</p>	<p>Guest presenters will participate in classes Students will practice communicative skills in dinners with host families.</p>
WEEK 3	<p>Health and well-being</p> <p>Body Parts.</p> <p>Telling about the Past. In the City. The Days of the Week</p> <p>Making Plans. Entertainment.</p> <p>Routines</p>	<p>The Verb: Review of tenses The Noun : The Instrumental case The Pronoun: Personal Pronouns in the Ablative, Instrumental and Locative Cases. Preposition <i>het</i> and Postposition <i>arants</i>. Postpositions <i>heto</i> and <i>araj</i>.</p>	<p>Youth slang, Armenian anecdotes, popular music, cinema</p>	<p>Guest presenters will participate in classes Students will practice communicative skills in dinners with host families.</p>