



News Release

Contact: Tom Overton
713-525-3105
overtot@stthom.edu

Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of St. Thomas Adds Arabic to the Curriculum

HOUSTON (March 31, 2006)—The Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of St. Thomas will introduce Arabic to its roster of international languages during the summer 2006 sessions.

Featuring the fundamentals of grammar and vocabulary, as well as cultural insight into the Arab world, Arabic I, first session, and Arabic II, second session, will aim for student proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing Arabic through formal instruction and cultural experiences. Visiting speakers from abroad, local speakers and visits to cultural sites are planned to enhance the learning experience. Additionally, students will have the option to live on campus in a “language cluster” in Guinan Residence Hall with fellow students of Arabic to practice and hone their language skills in an informal social setting. Among the residents in the language cluster will be Mina Loubiri, from Essaouri, Morocco, who will live in Guinan while she is receiving medical treatment in the United States.

“Especially at this juncture in history, it’s crucial to provide opportunities in the U.S. to learn about all aspects of our global world,” Andrist said. “It’s not too dramatic to say that our very survival as a species depends on our efforts to validate the differences in perspective among us. We don’t have to agree with another perspective of experience, we don’t even have to like the differences, but we must learn about how others come to their perspectives and validate that process as one aspect of the personal freedoms for which our country stands. The study of language, how people express themselves, and the related cultural concepts provide such opportunities to learn about perspectives. Modern and Classical Languages at the University of St. Thomas already offers French, German, Irish and Spanish regularly as well as Latin and Greek. We have offered Chinese, Hebrew and Biblical Greek in the past. We are now poised to expand those opportunities through offering Arabic. We are exploring the offering of Japanese, Mandarin and Vietnamese,” she said.

-more-

University of St. Thomas/Arab course/2222

All interested applicants are encouraged to apply and do not have to be degree-seeking students to take the courses. For more information on enrollment at the University of St. Thomas contact the admissions office at 713-525-3500 or visit www.stthom.edu/enrollment/admissions/. For more information on this specific course and additional language offerings, contact MACL at 713-525-6915 or Dr. Debra D. Andrist at andrist@stthom.edu.

The University of St. Thomas, dedicated to building leaders of faith and character, is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.



News Release

Contact:

Tom Overton
713-525-3105
overtot@stthom.edu

Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu