

**Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures**  
**University of Florida**  
**Beginning Amharic I (1130)**  
**Fall 2020**

**Instructor:** Belay W. Alem (belayalem@ufl.edu)

**Class Hours:** M, T,W,R,F | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM),

**Class Room:** Online(Zoom)

**Office Hours:** Monday 9:00 am-11:45 pm & by appointment

**Office:** Grinter Hall 448

**Credit Hours:** 5

### **Course Description**

This is an introductory course, designed to enable students to acquire the fundamentals of Amharic, one of the major languages of Ethiopia, spoken by over 40 million native speakers and widely used by over 2 million emigrants in different parts of the globe. The class primarily focuses on acquiring basic communicative skills (speaking, oral comprehension, writing and reading); more emphasis will be given on how you speak and listen to basic concepts of the language. Since the Amharic or Geez alphabets are different from the Roman or Latin alphabets, we will spend a portion of our time being acquainted with them. Through conversational practice, watching videos, listening to songs and Amharic radio broadcasts (such as VOA), and reading simple sentence structures students will acquire structural competence (i.e. pronunciation, vocabulary, sentence structures). In addition, knowing this interesting historical language will unleash you to explore breathtaking cultures and landscapes of Ethiopia and give you an opportunity to interact with the speakers of the language harmoniously.

### **Course objectives**

At the end of this course students will be able to engage in basic conversational topics such as greetings, making introductions, describing simple events, asking/describing where things are located, asking and telling time/dates, give and understand directions, and ask about important matters such as restrooms, water, bath rooms, hotels, and transportation. Students will also be able to read and comprehend short sentences and phrases.

### **Course requirements (Grading)**

Grading is based on a combination of class attendance and participation, quizzes, homework, projects, oral dialogues, a midterm test, and final examination. Students are expected to be punctual and actively participate in class activities. A student who is absent for 5 periods per semester without a valid excuse (doctor's note, job interview, documented family obligation, or religious holiday) will be penalized 1 percentage point of the final grade for each unexcused absence. Tardiness is disruptive to the class. A student who is late for more than 5 minutes three times will be considered to be absent one day. This is a technology (mobile phones, lap tops, ipads and other electronic gadgets) free classroom. Turn off or

silence your devices while in the classroom.

**For students with disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Religious Holidays:** If you will miss class because of a religious holiday, please inform the instructor in advance so he is aware that you have a legitimate reason for an absence.

**Grading Policy:** Grading policies for assigning grade points may be accessed by using the following webpage: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>. Grading for this course:

Class attendance/participation.....	10%
Quizzes/weekly tests .....	10%
Homework.....	10%
Oral exercises/dialogue projects/listening practices /projects .....	30%
Midterm test (Oral & Written).....	20%
Final Exam (Oral & Written).....	20%

#### Grading Scale

A= 95-100 A- = 90-94 B+= 85-89 B= 80-84 B- =75-80 C+= 70-75 C= 65-69 C- = 60-64

D+= 55-59 D= 50-55 F <49

### **Required Text Books and Materials**

- Gessesse, Kebede. (2012). *Basic Amharic: A Teaching Manual*. CreateSpace, Charleston, South Carolina.
- Ayalew, Bezza. (2005). *Let's Speak Amharic*. National African Languages Resource Center Press. Madison. (Every student should have this book. You can order it from NALRC or Amazon).
- Appleyard, D. (1995). *Colloquial Amharic: A Complete Course for Beginners*. Routledge 711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (Optional)

### Tentative Course Outline

Week	Preparation Before Class	In Class
Week 1	1. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Go over the syllabus</li> <li>- Introduce the course</li> <li>- Get to know each other</li> </ul>
Week 2-Week 3	Role Play <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introducing oneself names and interest</li> <li>2. General greetings</li> <li>3. Morning greetings</li> <li>4. Noon greetings</li> <li>5. Night greetings</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students do the role play in the class.</li> <li>- Students prepare their own conversations and perform in the class.</li> </ul>
Week 4	Role Play <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Talking about classroom objects</li> <li>2. Classroom expressions</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate how to talk about classroom objects.</li> <li>- Ask your friend or your teacher about things you do not understand.</li> </ul>
Week 5-Week 6	Role play <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Numbers</li> <li>2. Asking and telling time</li> <li>3. Days of the week</li> <li>4. Asking prices in the market.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students will incorporate numbers in the daily life.</li> <li>- How to negotiate for price and shopping in the market.</li> <li>- Tell your weekly program</li> </ul>
Week 7-Week 8	Role play <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You meet a new friend at a party, ask her or him questions about what she/he likes to do. Your classmate will play the role of the new friend</li> <li>2. Introduce yourself to the class and tell your classmates your likes and dislikes.</li> <li>3. Someone is interested in working in for you. Ask this person three or four questions that</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate how to talk about one's likes and dislikes.</li> <li>- Students practice the role plays.</li> <li>- Students write essays.</li> </ul>

	<p>will help you know this person better.</p> <p><b>Writing</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write a short essay about yourself, your likes and dislikes, the languages that you speak, what you study, and any other information you would like us to know about yourself.</li> </ol> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will be assigned by the instructor</li> </ol>	
Week 9	Midterm	- Midterm
Week 10-week 11	<p><b>Role play</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. giving and receiving directions.</li> <li>2. Assume you are a tourist in Ethiopia and ask a person where you can find a best hotel in the area.</li> <li>3. Inform your friend where and how he/she can get to the airport, to the restaurant, etc</li> </ol> <p><b>Writing</b></p> <p>Write an essay about the location of your country, or your hometown.</p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assigned by the instructor</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate the role plays</li> <li>- Collect essays</li> </ul>
Week 12- week 13	<p>Revisions, cultural visits and trip to Ethiopian restaurant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet Amharic speakers in the University of Florida and performance with Intermediate and Advanced level students.</li> </ul>	-

Week 14	Final exam	-
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