
Beginning Arabic Language I

WELCOME



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course initiates the development of the ability to speak, understand, read, and write Arabic. Students learn the fundamentals of grammar, basic vocabulary, and correct pronunciation. Various aspects of Arab cultures are discussed. This is a beginning-level course designed for students with no previous experience or with no more than one year of study of Arabic at the high school level.

OUTCOMES

Students will be expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- 1) Acquire basic knowledge of the Arabic Alphabet and Arabic numbers.
- 2) Recognize different structures of Arabic characters when characters are at the beginning, middle or the end of a word.
- 3) Acquire knowledge of word endings that describe plural, dual, singular, and gender
- 4) Acquire basic knowledge of Arabic words, word order, and basic sentence structure.
- 5) Be able to greet others and engage in simple conversation.

COMMUNICATION

Students will be expected to:

- Greet others and respond to others;
- Introduce themselves and others;
- Engage in simple conversation about themselves and others;
- Obtain information from others;
- Provide information about themselves;
- Express likes and dislikes;
- Describe actions in progress;
- Approximate as much as possible the pronunciation of a native speaker.

CULTURE

Students will:

- Be able to identify the different Arabic speaking countries and dialects;
- Acquire and give information about general education;
- Learn about and describe leisure activities;
- Become familiar with the family structure of Arabic speaking cultures;
- Learn about the socialization of peer groups and adult interaction;
- Identify famous Arabic-speaking singers, sports figures, politicians, heroes, in history and in modern times.

CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER DISCIPLINES

Students will:

- Acquire a basic knowledge of the geography of Arabic speaking countries;
- Identify historic events and dates in Arabic;
- Learn simple songs in Arabic;
- Describe weather conditions in Arabic;
- Learn to tell time and read schedules of events, entertainment and transportation;
- Learn to use the numbers from zero to trillion;
- Discuss various health, housing, banking, safety, emergency issues, etc..

COMPARISON

Students will:

- Be familiar with the differences between Arab and American peer-group activities;
- Be aware of the difference between Arabic and American adult social structure;
- Be familiar with differences between family structures;
- Describe the differences between educational systems;
- Compare leisure activities;
- Understand the differences and similarities among the various generations of Arab cultures.

First-semester Arabic introduces you to the Arabic language and aims to help you develop basic proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic (formal) and the Levantine dialect (informal) in all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. During the first half of the course we will focus on acquiring the Arabic alphabet and sound system. Lots of practice recognizing, distinguishing, and pronouncing the Arabic characters will help you build strong reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. In the second half of the course we will focus on developing basic communicative skills. By the end of this semester you will have reached the Novice-Mid proficiency level, and you should be able to:

1. Accurately distinguish and produce all Arabic sounds and letters.
2. Initiate social interactions, greet others, ask how they are doing, express thanks and apology.
3. Introduce yourself and provide basic personal information.
4. Obtain and give basic information.

5. Express likes, dislikes, hases, and wants.
6. Express states and feelings.
7. Describe people and objects, as well as where you live (city, area, house, and room).
8. Talk about family and friends.
9. Talk about daily/weekly routines.
10. Order drinks and food at a coffee shop/a restaurant.
11. Understand main ideas of simple written and spoken authentic texts on familiar topics.
12. Compose sentences and simple paragraphs about yourself, your family, and your friends.
13. Recognize and produce basic grammatical structures.
14. Have an active vocabulary of about 300 Arabic words

Now, here are some Massasoit Policy information that we will need to review:

Required Material:

No textbook is required. Reliable access to a computer and Internet services is required for this course to access course material online.

Extra material will be accessed through the following Web links:

- Companion website: www.alkitaabtextbook.com
- Arabic Voices: ASwaat Arabiyya “أصوات عربية”
<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/aswaat/index.php>

How to do well in this class?

You are in charge of your learning, and the more you invest in your Arabic learning, the better you will learn

- Be an active learner: The more you interact with the language, the better you will acquire it.
- Complete all assigned work prior to class.
- Be ready to fully engage and participate in all class activities. We do a lot of pair- and group-work since it is essential to maximizing your Arabic practice and improving your proficiency.
- Ask for help as soon as you need it.
- Do not let yourself fall behind.
- Arrive to class on time.
- Commit to using Arabic during pair- and group-work. Discussing your hobbies, for example, in English won't help you improve your ability to talk about your hobbies in Arabic.
- Review as often as you can.
- Stay motivated (even if you didn't do as well on that last quiz). It is natural to make errors when learning a language so do not be afraid of making errors.
- When learning new words: listen to the YouTube videos, repeat (out loud), write, & use the words as often and as much as needed.
- Personalize vocabulary to help you acquire them: use new words in contexts that are relevant to your life. In other words, use them to talk about your life.
- Be willing to help your classmates and get help from them.
- Keep your phone silent and out of sight during class. No texting!

- Practice. Practice. Practice.
- Remember: **You are in charge of your own learning.**

Teaching Procedure:

A large portion of this class will be spent on learning how to write, pronounce, and connect the Arabic Alphabet. We will also learn to speak and practice in pairs. Cultural aspects related to class material will also be presented in the form of mini clips on line, and discussed in class. Pronunciation and listening drills will be used in-order to ensure acquisition of letters and sounds of the Arabic Alphabet and numbers. Vocabulary drills and exercises will be introduced. Word connections will be used to form coherent sentences for communication purposes.

Grading Policy

Mastery of Alphabet 20%: This will consist of letter recognition in all parts of the word (beginning, middle, and word ending), and correct pronunciation of sounds and intonations. **Oral and written tests** will be used to assess mastery.

Class participation 20%: This consists of participation in class cultural discussions, practice of sound drills and vocabulary, participation in handwriting exercises and dictation, and general active presence in class.

Mastery of Vocabulary: 20 %: This will be assessed in quizzes carried out through the semester

Mid Term 20%: An oral and a written test to be administered.

Final Exam 20%: A Test of oral and written skills and vocabulary to be administered at the end of the semester.

GRADING SYSTEM:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

I look forward to an enjoyable, productive semester with you.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>Week and dates</u>	<u>In class activity</u>	<u>Remote</u>
Week One:	Introduction to the course, discussion of Syllabus Introduction to: Alif (A sound) Baa (B sound) (ا) (ب) Introduction to CANVAS page	Practice writing your name and names of your family members Practice writing and pronouncing sounds
Week Two:	Introduction of : Taa, Thaa sounds (ت) (ت) Introduction of : oo, ee, fatHa, Damma, Kasra	Cultural discussion: Saying Hello and introducing yourself (أنا)

	(vowel sounds) (َ ُ) Combination of sounds practice	Videos online
Week Three:	You will work with the following letters and sounds: Jeem Ha Kha wow and Ya	Introduction to different Arabic Dialects Introduction of : Jeem, Haa, Khaa sounds (ج ح خ) Introduction of: Sukun, Waaw, Yaa sounds (و ي) Practice sound combinations
Week Four:	Introduction of: Hamza, dal, zal, raa, zaa (ا ذ ر ز د) Practice sound combinations Reading practice with all sounds and vowel sounds learned.	Cultural discussion: Hadritik, Hadritak, and greetings حضرتك حضرتك و تاهيل
Week Five:	Meeting and greeting People Handout Cultural discussion: Use of Alhamdu-lillaah (الحمد لله) Writing / reading/ Vocabulary practice. Quiz on alef Baa Taawow ya haa, jeem and khaa sounds (ا ب ج ح خ) (ت ث و ي)	New vocabulary words to memorize and practice.
Week Six: October 12	Introduction of : Shaddah, seen, sheen, saad, daad sounds (س ش ص ض) Combination of sounds practice All about me (handouts) Cultural discussion: Forms of Address. Gender (هو هي)	Practice and complete homework assignments online

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Week Seven:	Introduction of : taa marbouta, Ttaa, zzaa, ayn, ghayn sounds (ة ط ظ ع غ) Combination of sounds practice	writing /reading/ vocabulary practice. Submit assignments online.
Week Eight:	Revision Mid term	Revision, practice and completion of assignments online. Recording oral pronunciation.
Week Nine:	Discussion of midterm Practice missed sound combinations Cultural discussion: Maa-essalama	
Week Ten:	Introduction of: Faa, qaaf, kaaf, laam, laam alif sounds (ف ق ك ل لا) Hamza on yaa, and hamza on waaw (و ع ي ا) (لا) Cultural discussion: Coffee; coffee houses and Hookah	
Week Eleven:	Introduction of: meem, nuun, haa, alif madda sounds (م ن ه) Reading/ writing/ Vocabulary practice. Cultural discussion: Maalayhsh (never mind/ it's ok).	
Week Twelve: NO CLASSES Thanksgiving Recess	Thanksgiving Recess	Thanksgiving Recess
Week Thirteen:	Introduction of : Alif Laam, connection hamza, and the dagger alif. (ال) Introduction of Arabic Numerals and	

	Numbers (1-10) Cultural discussion: extended greetings	
Week Fourteen:	Introduction of : Alif maksura, Tanween fateh, tanween daam, tanween kassr (ع َ ؤ ؓ) Practice reading, writing, vocabulary Combining sounds. Likes, dislikes	
Week Fifteen:	Classes End December 12	
Final Exam		حظاً سعيداً Good Luck

SAMPLE