

## SYLLABUS

*Arabic 100*  
*Moravian College*  
*Foreign Languages Department*  
*Fall 2008*

**Instructor: Nada Hamouch**

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**Office Hours: M F 10:15 to 11:45 am**

### **Course Objectives:**

The main objective of this course is to help students to master Arabic sounds and the Arabic writing system. In addition, students will begin to use everyday conversational Arabic, including a number of greetings and other common expressions, and will acquire and learn to use a basic vocabulary. Also linguistic skills will be complemented with a regular dose of cultural tidbits and discussions, with the goal of awakening in students an awareness and an appreciation of the cultural context in which the Arabic language is used.

By the end of the course, students should, with relative ease, be able to:

- (1) Distinguish by ear all the sounds of the Arabic language;
- (2) Produce all the sounds of the Arabic language both in speech and in writing;
- (3) Sound out any given Arabic text composed of familiar words and expressions
- (4) Comfortably use basic words and expressions in everyday speech situations.

### **Course Requirements:**

Students will be expected to make regular use of the textbook, and to spend ample time on pronunciation and writing exercises outside class. It is imperative that students become thoroughly familiar with each new set of sounds and letters, and to complete all pronunciation and writing exercises before coming to each class session. In-class time will be dedicated to exercises, dictation, reading and other activities designed with the assumption that students have already become conversant with the material at hand.

The textbook used (see below) is composed of ten units. We will cover, on the average, one unit per week. Our study of each unit will end with an in-class dictation designed to allow students to measure their mastery of the material covered. A formal test will be administered after the completion of two or three units. There will be a total of three (3) such tests, in addition to the final examination.

Unless you have a very serious excuse there will be no make-ups for quizzes and

tests missed. If you cannot come to class you must let me know **in advance** and I will tell you whether your reason is legitimate or not. If you do wish to be considered for a make-up, it is **your** responsibility to discuss this with me **before the next class meeting**.

**Evaluation:** Students' final marks for the course will be based on the quizzes, the three in-class tests, the final exam, regular attendance coupled with active class participation, and the careful and timely preparation of homework assignments.

**Attendance:**

You need to come to class and be on time. 0-3 absences will not be penalized, but may affect class performance. If you need to miss class for a valid reason, please let me know ahead of time so we can make arrangements for missed work. More than three absences will result in a lowering of the final grade by one point for every additional absence. The student would need to make arrangements to complete missed work.

Arriving late (10 min or more) to class more than four times will equal one absence.

**Preparation and participation:**

Active participation in class is crucial for increasing conversational skills in Arabic. Students are expected to arrive prepared to participate in all class activities by having studied the topics to be covered and having completed all assigned homework. Simply being present and taking notes does not constitute active participation.

No attendance, no participation at all : When a student is not in class, he/she gets a zero for that day regardless of the reason for that absence

**Grades** will be computed according to the following percentages:

**Attendance and participation : 10%**

<b>Homework :</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Quizzes:</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Test (3):</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Final Exam:</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Required Text :**

Brustad, Kristen, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tonsi. *Alif Baa with DVDs: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds. Second Edition.* Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2004.

**Letter grades:**

95-100	A	76-73	C
94-90	A-	72-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-83	B	66-63	D
82-80	B-	62-60	D-
79-77	C+	59-00	F

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

## August

- Monday 25 : Introduction  
Wednesday 27 : Unit 1 - the letters alif , baa and taa  
Friday 29 : Unit 1 - the letter thaa  
- long vowels

## September

- Monday 1 : **LABOR DAY**  
Wednesday 3 : Unit 1 - short vowels  
Friday 5 : Unit 1 - culture, dictation and review
- Monday 8 : Unit 2 - the letters jiim and haa  
Wednesday 10 : Unit 2 - the letter khaa  
- sukuun as the absence of a short vowel  
Friday 12 : Unit 2 - waw and yaa as consonants “w” and “y”  
- culture and dialogues
- Monday 15 : Unit 2 - dictation and review  
Wednesday 17 : **Test** on units 1-2  
Friday 19 : Review of quiz on units 1-2  
Unit 3 - the letter hamza
- Monday 22 : Unit 3 - the letters daal and dhal  
Wednesday 24 : Unit 3 - the letters raa and zaa  
Friday 26 : Unit 3 - culture, dictation and review
- Monday 29 : Unit 4 - doubling of consonants “shadda”  
- the letter seen

## October

- Wednesday 1 : Unit 4 - the letters sheen and saad  
Friday 3 : Unit 4 - the letter daad  
- exercises
- Monday 6 : **FALL RECESS**  
Wednesday 8 : Unit 4 - culture  
- grammatical gender  
- dictation  
Friday 10 : Unit 5 - taa marbouta  
- the letter taa
- Monday 13 : Unit 5 - the letters dhaa and ayn  
Wednesday 15 : Unit 5 - the letter ghayn  
- culture  
Friday 17 : Unit 5 - dictation and review

- Monday 20 : Review of units 3-5  
 Wednesday 22 : **Test** on units 3-5  
 Friday 24 : Review of quiz on units 3-5  
                   Unit 6 - the letters faa and qaaf
- Monday 27 : Unit 6 - the letters kaaf and laam  
 Wednesday 29 : Unit 6 - the writing of laam-alif  
                   - culture  
 Friday 31 : Unit 6 - dictation and review
- November** :
- Monday 3 : Unit 7 - the letters miim and nuun  
 Wednesday 5 : Unit 7 - the letter haa  
                   - exercises  
 Friday 7 : Unit 7 - Arabic numerals and numbers (1-10)  
                   - culture : Coffee Time !
- Monday 10 : Unit 8 - - the definite article (alif laam)  
 Wednesday 12 : Unit 8 - hamzat al wasl and dagger alif  
                   - culture  
 Friday 14 : Unit 8 - dictation, culture and review
- Monday 17 : Unit 8 - Review of units 6-8  
 Wednesday 19 : **Test** on units 6-8  
 Friday 21 : Unit 9 - alif maqsura and alif madda
- Monday 24 : Unit 9 - hamza on yaa seat  
                   - hamza on waw seat  
 Wednesday 26 : **Thanks giving**  
 Friday 28 : **Thanks giving**
- December**
- Monday 3 : Unit 9 - culture, dictation and review  
 Wednesday 5 : Unit 10 - tanween  
 Friday 7 : Unit 10 - handwriting styles  
                   - culture
- Monday 10 : Review for final exam  
 December 12-19 : Final examinations