

SYLLABUS

Arabic 100
Moravian College
Foreign Languages Department
Fall 2009

Instructor: Nada Hamouch

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Office Hours: W 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Office : Comenius 304

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%

Homework :	10%
Quizzes:	10%
Test (3):	45%
Final Exam:	25%
Total	100%

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.

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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 31 : Introduction + Unit 1- the letter alif

September

Wednesday 2 : Unit 1 - the letters baa, taa and tha

Monday 7 : **LABOR DAY**

Wednesday 9 : Unit 1 - long vowels-short vowels
- culture and dictation

Monday 14 : Review chapter 1
Unit 2 - the letters jiim, haa and khaa

Wednesday 16 : Unit 2 - - sukuun as the absence of a short vowel
-- waw and yaa as consonants “w” and “y”

Monday 21 : Unit 2 - culture and dialogues
- dictation and review

Wednesday 23 : **Test** on units 1 and 2

Monday 28 : Unit 3 - the letter hamza
- the letters daal and dhal

Wednesday 30 : Unit 3 - the letters raa and zaa

October

Monday 05 : Unit 3 - culture, dictation and review
-Unit 4 - doubling of consonants “shadda”
- the letter seen

Wednesday 07 : Unit 4 – the letters seen, sheen and saad

Monday 12 : **FALL RECESS**

Wednesday 14 : Unit 4 - the letter daad and exercises
- culture and grammatical gender

Monday 19 : Unit 5 - taa marbouta
- the letter taa

Wednesday 21 : Unit 5

Monday 26 : Unit 5 -
Wednesday 28 : Unit 5 -

November

Monday 02 : Test on unit 3-5
Wednesday 04 : Unit 6

Monday 09 : Unit 6 -
Wednesday 11 : Unit 6 -

Monday 16 : Unit 7 -
Wednesday 18 : Unit 7 -

Monday 23 : Unit 8 -
Wednesday 25 : **Thanksgiving**

Monday 30 : Unit 8 -

December

Wednesday 02 : **Test** on units 6-8

Monday 07 : Unit 9
Wednesday 09 : Unit 9 and 10

Monday 14 : Final exam of Arabic