

SYLLABUS

Arabic 100
Moravian College
Foreign Languages Department
Fall 2015

Instructor: Yasmine Karam

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Office: Comenius 409

Office Hours: F 1:00 pm -2:00 pm or by appointment

Course Times: M-W-F 11:45 am -12:45 pm

Classroom: Comenius 218

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 every day 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 units. There will be a total of four (4) such tests, in addition to the final examination.

Unless you have a very serious excuse there will be no make-ups for 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**.

Disability Support:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401).

Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Evaluation:

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

Time Commitment: Students are expected to dedicate *at least* two hours of work outside of class per hour of class, for a *minimum* total of 7 hrs./wk. You may need to spend more time than that to adequately prepare for class and complete assignments.

[From Dept policy] Attendance: Don't miss any classes. In case of unavoidable absence, such as illness, participation in athletic events, emergencies, etc., if you notify me BEFORE class, I will excuse you, though I reserve the right to require documentation. (N.B. Travel plans do not constitute an emergency.) You may have up to three absences, excused or unexcused. After the third absence you will lose one percentage point from your final grade for each absence. If your absence is excused, you may make up homework or tests. **If the absence is not excused, you may not make up written work or tests**, though I will be happy to look at your homework and give you feedback.

Late Assignments: Late work will not be accepted except as described above under "attendance".

Participation: Active participation in class is crucial for increasing conversational competence 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.

- By mid-semester, we will be using primarily Arabic in class. Early on you will be expected to ask in Arabic what words mean, etc.
- Factors which will contribute toward your participation grade include: effort to speak Arabic, arriving to class on time, remaining on task while in class, working with partners or groups on assignments, volunteering, presenting a positive attitude, having homework completed, knowing vocabulary of the chapter, remaining in class for the duration of the period, attendance.

Repeated late arrivals will be reflected in a lowered class participation grade. Three late arrivals of more than 15 minutes will be counted as an absence.

In order to have a **good learning environment** in class I ask that the following conditions be respected:

- **Arrive in class on time.** Repeated late arrivals will be reflected in a lowered class participation grade. Late arrivals of more than 15 minutes will be counted as an absence.
- **Participate fully in class work.** Unsatisfactory classroom behavior, such as little or no verbal response, uncooperative interaction with others for group work and/or a disrespectful attitude will be reflected in a lowered class participation grade.
- **Turn off cell phones** and leave them **out of sight during class.**
- **Plan to stay in class for the full 70 minutes** without taking a break to use the bathroom, check messages, etc.

Note: The college sponsors a **tutoring program** which provides help to you free of charge. You will hear more about this during the early weeks of the semester.

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.

Grades will be computed according to the following percentages:

Participation: 10%

Homework: 20%

Test (4): 50%

Final Exam: 20%

Total: 100%

Letter Grades

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

Required Text:

Brustad Kristen, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tonsi. *Alif Baa with DVDs:*

Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds. Third Edition. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2004.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August

Monday 31 : Introduction
: Unit 1 - the Arabic alphabet

September

Wednesday 02 : Unit 1 - the Arabic symbols
Friday 04 : Unit 1 - the letters: independent, initial, medial and final positions

Monday 07 : Unit 1 - pronunciation of Arabic
Wednesday 09 : Unit 1 - formal and spoken Arabic
Friday 11 : Unit 1 - the transliteration system

Monday 14 : Unit 1 - greetings and introductions
Wednesday 16 : Unit 2 - the letters baa, taa, and thaa
Friday 18 : Unit 2 - the letters aa, uu, and ii as long vowels

Monday 21 : Unit 2 - short vowels a (fatha), u (damma), and i (kasra)
Wednesday 23 : Dictation, review and culture of units 1&2
Friday 25 : Test # 1 on units 1&2

Monday 28 : Unit 3 - the letters jiim, Haa and khaa
Wednesday 30 : Unit 3 – sukuun, waaw and yaa as consonants

October

Friday 02 : Unit 3 – greeting people

Monday 05 : Unit 4 - the consonant hamza
Wednesday 07 : Unit 4 - Arabic numerals and numbers
Friday 09 : Unit 4 – the letters daal, dhal, raa and zaay

Monday 12 : **FALL RECESS**

Wednesday 14 : Dictation, culture and review of units 3&4
Friday 16 : Test # 2 on units 3&4

Monday 19 : Unit 5 – doubled consonants with shadda

Wednesday 21 : Unit 5 – the letters siin and shiin
Friday 23 : Unit 5 - the letters saad and daad

Monday 26 : Unit 5 - roots
Wednesday 28 : Unit 6 - gender and taa marbouta
Friday 30 : Unit 6 - the letters Taa and Dhaa

November

Monday 02 : Unit 6 - the letters ayn and ghayn
Wednesday 04 : Dictation, culture and review of units 5&6
Friday 06 : Test #3 on units 5&6

Monday 09 : Unit 7 - the letters faa, qaaf, and kaaf
Wednesday 11 : Unit 7 - the letters laam and laam ali
Friday 13 : Unit 7 - expressions with Allaah

Monday 16 : Unit 8 - the letters miim, nuun, and haa,
Wednesday 18 : Unit 8 - hamza on kursi yaa and waw, alif madda
Friday 20 : Dictation, culture and review of units 7&8

Monday 23 : Test # 4 on units 7&8
Wednesday 25 : **Thanksgiving**
Friday 27 : **Thanksgiving**

Monday 30 : Unit 9- the definite article (alif lam)

December

Wednesday 02 : Unit 9 - the sun and moon letters, hamzat al wasl
Friday 04 : Unit 9- roots and patterns

Monday 07 : Unit 10 - alif maqsura and dagger alif, grammatical endings (tanwiin)
Wednesday 09 : Unit 10 - handwriting styles
Friday 11 : Revisions of all units.

Tuesday 15 : Final Exam 1:30 pm