



Duke University  
Asian and African Languages and Literature  
Fall 2006: Elementary Arabic I

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### **Class Schedule**

MW 1:15 – 2:30 Languages 208  
TTH 1:15 – 2:05 Languages 207

### **Course Description**

This course is an elementary level of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which is spoken and written throughout the 21 countries of the Arab world. It is designed to introduce students to the basic skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking. The class focuses on pronunciation, phonology and writing the Arabic alphabet. Gradually, through exploring the drills, exercises and class discussion, students will develop oral and aural proficiency for communication and learn the fundamental structure of basic sentences.

Class will depend on simple interactive tasks involving teacher to students and student-to-student, and extensive listening exercises to develop communicative skills. Culture across the Arab world is an integral part of this course. Arab culture will be explored through the reading, audiovisual materials, the *aswaat arabiyah* site, film and outside class activities.

### **Course Materials**

1. Kristen Brustad et al, ( : ) *Aif Baa:*

Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds (with DVDs) . Washington D.C.  
Georgetown University Press, 2004.

2. Kristen Brustad et al, ( ) *Al-Kitaab fii ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One (with DVDs)*. Washington D.C. Georgetown University Press, 2004.
3. Handout assignment & activity every week.

### **General objectives of elementary Arabic**

The successful student who completes the two elementary levels will meet the proficiency level of novice high as outlined in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) efficiency guidelines. He or she will acquire the basic knowledge of the following skills:

- a. **Listening:** Understand a basic spoken MSA, able to grasp a meaning of short passage, understand simple one-to-one conversation and get simple conversation and directions
- b. **Speaking:** Able to express oneself and participate in simple one-to-one conversations involving basic practical and social situations such as introduction, greetings, home and family issues, work and simple instructions
- c. **Reading:** Read Arabic materials of limited complexity and variety. Able to read and understand simple description, narrative and comprehend list of items dealing with personal and social needs.
- d. **Writing:** Able to write simple notes, letters, and personal experiences. Able to supply information on basic simple forms such as hotel registration, passport and other travel documents.

### **Specific objectives of Elementary I**

- a. **Develop proficiency** in listening, speaking, reading and writing in MSA. The class starts with pronunciation, phonology writing the Arabic alphabet.

- b. Practice basic grammatical structures.** Gradually, through exploring the drills, exercises and class discussion, students will develop basic communicative skills and learn the fundamental structure of basic sentences.
- c. Understand Arab culture** through class materials, discussion, Internet, film and outside activities.

### **How can you meet these objectives?**

- ✓ Participate actively and fully in class using all vocabulary and structures that you learn all the time and as much as you can.
- ✓ Do not get frustrated in case you forget a vocabulary, rule or make a mistake. Language learning is a process that requires dedication and patience.
- ✓ Do all the assignments; studying in groups or recurring to tutors, myself or the TA, is NOT a sin.
- ✓ Inform the instructor about any problem you have that might be preventing you from learning successfully.
- ✓ Be prepare for quizzes, exams [study and practice]
- ✓ Remember, Arabic is a Semitic language, poetic in its nature and classical in its structure, so it requires some memorization.

### **Course Policies**

- **Attendance:** Regular class attendance is obligatory in order to achieve the course objectives.
- **Participation:** Since the course follows a communicative approach to language learning, active participation in class is required.
- **Performance:** Students are required to give a 200% performance
- **Assignments:** Students are responsible for handing in to the instructor **ON TIME** all assigned activities.

- **Oral Proficiency Interview:** Students are required to make a 10 to 20 minutes oral interview in Arabic by the end of the semester [using what they learn in class through the semester]

### **Course Grade**

Attendance and participation	10%
Homework	20%
4/ Quizzes	20%
Midterm	20%
Final exam & OPI (20 % & 10% )	30%

### **Class Schedule**

#### **Week 1:** 8/28 – 8/31

- ✓ Introduction: class, syllabus, course materials.
- ✓ Arabic Language, phonology and the alphabet.
- ✓ Unit One: reading, speaking exercises & alphabet.
- ✓ Homework: drills: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 14.

#### **Week 2:** 9/ 4 – 7

- ✓ Unit Two: reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Drills 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 & 12.
- ✓ Unit Three: Reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Drills 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10.

#### **Week 3:** 9/11 – 14

- ✓ Unit Four: Reading & speaking exercises. Homework: Drills 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, & 18.
- ✓ Unit Five: Reading & speaking exercises. Homework: Drills 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 19, 21 & 23.

- ✓ Review Units 1 – 5. **Quiz # 1.**

**Week 4:** 9/18 – 21

- ✓ Unit Six: Reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Drills 1, 2, 4, 5, 9 & 12.
- ✓ Unit Seven: Reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Drills: 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11 & 12.

**Week 5:** 9/25 – 28

- ✓ Unit Eight: Reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Drills 1, 2, 5, 9 & 12. Handouts on numbers
- ✓ Unit Nine: Reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Drills 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6.
- ✓ **Quiz # 2**

**Week 6:** 10/2 – 5

- ✓ Unit 10: Reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Drills 2, 3, 4 & 5.
- ✓ Review of *Alif Baa*
- ✓ **Midterm Exam**

**Week 7:** 10/11 - 12 (10/ 6 – 10: FALL BREAK)

- ✓ Introduction to *Al-Kitaab*.

**Week 8:** 10/16 – 19

- ✓ Lesson 1: أنا **أنا** [Students are encouraged to memorize the story] & vocabulary on page 3.
- ✓ Reading, speaking exercises & culture.
- ✓ Homework: Exercises 5 & 6.

**Week 9:** 10/23 – 26

- ✓ Grammar in context:
  - Masculine and Feminine: المذكر و المؤنث
  - The definite Article: ال
  - The nisba adjective for origin or affiliation: النسبة
  - Asking Questions السؤال
  - Homework: Exercises 8, 10, 12, 13 & 14.

**Week 10:** 10/30 - 11/2

- ✓ Lesson 2: أنا فعلا وحيدة
- ✓ Vocabulary on page 19.
- ✓ Reading, speaking exercises & culture.
- ✓ Homework: exercises 1, 2 & 3.
- ✓ **Quiz # 3**

**Week 11:** 11/6 – 9

- ✓ Grammar in context:
  - Subject pronouns: الضما نر
  - Plural: الجمع
  - Basic sentence: الجملة
- ✓ Lesson 3 عا نلة والدي
- ✓ Vocabulary on page 36. Reading & speaking exercises.
- ✓ Homework: Exercises 4, 7, & memorize the song حبيتك بالصيف
- ✓ Exercises 3 and 4 on pages 38 & 39.

**Week 12:** 11/13 – 16

- ✓ **Quiz # 4**
- ✓ Grammar in context:
  - IDaafa Construction الاضافة
  - Possessive Pronouns: ضمائر الملكية

- ✓ Homework: Exercises 6, 7, & 16
- ✓ Lesson 4 كيف أحفظ كل الأسماء؟

**Week 13:** 11/20 – 21

- ✓ Vocabulary on page 52
- ✓ Grammar in context:
  - Present or incomplete tense: الفعل المضارع
  - Basic sentence: الجملة
- ✓ Speaking exercises & culture
- ✓ Homework: Exercises 1, 2, 5, 7 & 11.

**Week 14:** 11/27 – 30

- ✓ Lesson 5 لا أحب مدينة نيويورك
- ✓ Vocabulary on page 70. Reading, speaking exercises and culture
- ✓ Grammar in context:
  - Adverbs: تنوين الفتح
  - Non-Adjective Phrases: الاسم + الصفة
  - Demonstrative pronouns: هذا & هذه
- ✓ Homework: Exercises 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 10.

**Week 15:** 12/4 - 7

- ✓ Review course materials
- ✓ **Final Exam**