

First-Year Arabic (ARAB 0100) - Fall 2014

Meeting Time/ Location: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 AM, Sayles Hall 205

TR 9:00 - 10:20 AM, Sayles Hall 205

Instructor S01: Mirena Christoff

Center for Language Studies

Office: 195 Angell St., 209

Phone: (401) 863 - 1278

Office Hours: TR 12:00 - 1:30 PM, or by appointment

أهلاً وسهلاً!

Course Description, Goals, and Method:

ARAB 0100 is the first part of a **year-long introductory course** (ARAB0100 - ARAB0200) in Arabic language and culture. Academic credit for First-Year Arabic is granted upon completion of both ARAB0100 in the fall and ARAB0200 in the spring semester.

This beginning course is designed for students without any previous knowledge of the language. **The course objectives** are to build essential listening, speaking, reading and writing competence in Arabic, while introducing students to a variety of cultural topics and daily life in Arab society. At the end of the first semester, students should expect to have accomplished the following **learning outcomes**:

- 1- Listening: To understand short segments of continuous speech on familiar subjects, recognizing single words and high-frequency phrases in basic social and personal contexts.
- 2 - Speaking: To be able to introduce yourself, your friends and family, and talk about your daily routine in your familiar social and academic environment; to devise brief factual reports about events using simple utterances in MSA and colloquial Arabic;
- 3 - Reading: To be able to read and understand authentic texts of limited length dealing with familiar topics, analyzing their factual content (who; what; where; when), and recognizing frequently used words and phrases within complex sentences.
- 4 - Writing: To be able to provide a brief written response to questions and compose concise entries on the subjects of study, using your basic knowledge of vocabulary (about 300 words), grammar, and sentence structure.

Our **teaching method** draws on the communicative approach to language teaching and learning. It is based on the idea that one learns a language by using it. Instruction is conducted increasingly in Arabic and aimed at using the language eventually as the sole medium of communication and interaction in class. We encourage you to speak in Arabic with your classmates outside of the classroom, as well, and to seek contacts with your Brown peers of Arab origin.

Every week, the last working day is reserved for review and conversation practice. The Friday conversation hour is integral to the course. Attendance and participation in conversation exercises is essential for the development of your communicative capacity and will be reflected in your final grade.

Tips for Making your Preparation for Class More Productive:

- Study the new vocabulary in advance: listen to the DVD, say the new word, write it down, then try to create a simple context in which to use it;
- Always read aloud;
- Study in groups;
- Keep a weekly journal of new words and use them in short paragraphs;
- Prepare and turn in homework **on time**;
- Review constantly.

Please Ask for Help:

Learning a foreign language like Arabic can be a demanding task. When faced with a difficulty, don't hesitate to ask for clarification. It is best to have a question answered during the class period, since the entire class will benefit from hearing the question and answer. You may also bring questions to office hours, or e-mail them. In any case, it is always better to have your questions answered early on, in order to avoid confusion or misunderstanding.

Textbooks and other learning materials:

1. *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*, 2nd ed., by Brustad, al-Batal, and al-Tonsi.
2. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Part One*, 2nd ed., with DVDs, by Brustad, et al.

We also recommend the *Answer Key* supplements to *Alif Baa* and *al-Kitaab, Part One*. They provide a useful tool for HW correction and review.

3. The Hans Wehr *Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*, edited by J.M. Cowan, and the *Oxford English -Arabic Dictionary*.

All textbooks and reference materials are available at the Brown Bookstore. They may be purchased online, as well, at Amazon.com, or the publisher's website www.press.georgetown.edu

Additional learning resources and links to relevant Internet sites will be provided by the instructor. In the course of the semester, Arabic films, music, talks by invited guest

speakers, and other educational events will be incorporated in the learning process, in order to broaden your perspective of the cultural environment of the language.

Tests and grading:

In the fall, ARAB 0100 will complete *Alif Baa* and the first five units of *al-Kitaab, Part One*. There is no mid-term exam; rather, your progress in the course of study will be evaluated throughout the semester. The grade you receive upon completion of ARAB 0100 will represent the sum of the following elements:

Homework (20%): Homework is assigned and graded on a daily basis. Please observe the following **guidelines**:

- Hand in the homework assignment **on time**, on a separate piece of paper (do not rip sheets out of the book; you may, however, photocopy pages). Write your name in Arabic as soon as you know how. Write neatly and skip lines leaving **enough room for comments and corrections**.
- **Always copy the entire sentence on which you are being drilled.** In a fill-in the blanks exercise, for example, don't hand in simply the word(s) that should go in the blank, but write down the entire sentence and underline the word you chose to put in the blank.

Class attendance and participation (20%): Regular attendance is crucial for keeping up with the pace of the class and for your overall success. Therefore, it is expected that you will exert every effort to attend all class sessions on time. Please inform your instructor **in advance** of any absence. You will still be responsible for material covered in class while you are away and for turning in any missed homework following your return. This means that you should get notes from your classmates, study the material on your own first, then, if necessary, seek the instructor's assistance, as well, during office hours. Assessing the validity of any medical, legal, or other personal excuse for missing class is at the discretion of the instructor.

Participation will be graded daily throughout the semester on a scale from 5 to 1 (5=excellent; 4 = good, but not your best effort; 3= mediocre; 2 = poor; 1 = very poor) based on preparation for class; contribution to a cooperative classroom atmosphere; willingness to take part in class activities and interact in Arabic; effective communication in the language; and making use of the instructor's office hours.

Four Comprehensive Exams (40%): Each periodic exam is designed to assess your lexical and grammatical competence, listening, reading, and writing skills. They are scheduled in advance and taken in class. Details about the course material and units covered on each exam will be offered in class.

Arabic Project - Oral (10%): In the course of the semester, each student will be asked to speak in class for about 5 minutes on a topic of his/her choice. He/she may also prepare and present a skit with a classmate. Oral presentations and skits are excellent

opportunities to practice everything you have been studying, to show how much you have learned and how creative you can be in the language. It is a good idea to take your previously written compositions or the texts in the book as a model. As you prepare your oral presentations, please keep in mind that the purpose of this exercise is to make the best of what you already know.

Arabic project - Writing (10%): In the second half of the semester, each student will be required to prepare and submit 5 journal/blog entries in Arabic. Detailed information about this assignment (learning objective, suggested topics, and how to do it) will be provided in due time.

Grades range from A= 90 - 100, to B= 80 - 89, to C= 70 - 79. If your grade option is S/NC, in order to receive S, your cumulative letter grade in ARAB 0100 must be C, or higher.

Please note that mid-year grades assigned at the end of the fall semester are provisional. They should be regarded as a feedback on your overall performance in the first half of the beginning Arabic course. Your actual final grade for First-Year Arabic will be determined at the end of the academic year when you complete ARAB 0200.

Year Courses: A tentative grade is given at the end of the first semester in year courses; at the end of the second semester, examinations in such courses cover the work of the two semesters; and a final grade for both is assigned at that time.

-- Office of the Registrar, Brown University

A detailed day-to-day schedule will be posted on the course website at the beginning of each week. For your information, listed below is a tentative schedule for the first week of classes:

Week One

Wednesday, September 3:

In class: Introduction: course objectives, methods, and grading policy. Unit One: Listening, speaking, writing and reading practice.

At home: Read the “Preface to the Student” (pp. VII - VIII), the “Introduction” (pp. 1-8), and Unit One in *Alif Baa*. Using the DVD, listen to the sounds and watch the video segments that show how the letters are written. Practice studying the sounds and letters on your own, by doing all drills and exercises up to dr.4 (pp.9 - 17)

Thursday, September 4:

In class: Review greetings. Complete Unit One and begin Unit Two.

At home: Review Unit One and complete all exercises. Study Unit Two. On a separate sheet, write from dictation (using the DVD) dr.1, p. 31, dr. 2, p. 33, and dr. 4, p. 34 (marking the short vowels). Bring your written HW to class on Friday, and submit for grading. Prepare dr.6, p. 35 for reading aloud in class.

Friday, September 5:

In class: Conversation: Meeting and greeting people (Unit One and Unit Two).

At home: Review Unit One and Unit Two. Practice new vocabulary with a classmate. Write (and submit on Monday): dr. 7 and 8, p. 37; and dr. 10, p. 38. Study Unit Three.



وبالتوفيق إن شاء الله !