

Sacramento State University – Fall 2009
Arabic 1A

Instructor: Eva Aramouni
Class meets: T/R 1:30 to 3:20
Classroom: Eureka 103
Call number: 81651
Office hours: MRP 2023, Tues 12:30 to 1:30pm
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Required Texts:

- 1- Alif Baa' Introduction to Arabic letters and sounds (Al Batal & Brustad)
- 2- Al Kitaab fii ta'allum al'Arabyya Part one with DVDs (Al Batal & Brustad)

Suggested Material:

- 1- Audio CDs to accompany Al Kitaab
- 2- The Hans Wehr Arabic-English Dictionary

Catalog Description:

Introduction to standard Arabic letters and sounds, the essentials of Arabic grammar, and basic instruction in all four language skills: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. In addition to getting a start in modern Arabic, students will also learn about social aspects of the use of Arabic, 4 units.

Students Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

In this class, you will learn Modern Standard Arabic, the language of literature, newspapers, and formal speech through the Arab world. A modern Standard Arabic dialect is not used for everyday speech, but it is the foundation of the various Arabic dialects and is widely understood by many native Arabic speakers. We will emphasize the functional use of Arabic and develop the following four basic skills.

Listening: Students will be able to distinguish Arabic sounds and comprehend simple statements relating to their immediate environment and familiar subjects.

Speaking: Students will be expected to ask and answer questions that deal with familiar topics, such as personal interests, family, residence, university life, likes and dislikes, etc.

Reading: By the end of the course, students will be able to read simple sentences correctly and smoothly.

Writing: Students should be able to write with accurate spelling materials covered in class and compose new sentences. Topics of composition will deal mainly with self, family, university life and familiar topics.

Method of Instruction:

Emphasis is placed on acquiring proficiency on comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing Arabic with cultural context. To accomplish this, we will utilize communication based on activities, cooperative learning techniques and regular daily lab assignments. Class requirements will also be dedicated to the analysis of the of the many different aspects of the Arabic culture. This class will meet twice a week for 1 hour 50 minutes.

We will also have several sessions in the language lab. Those times will be announced by your instructor in class.

During Arabic 1A we will finish the first test book Alif Baa' and we will aim at finishing 6 units of Al Kitaab part one.

Student requirement:

- 1- Be prepared: Have all class material brought to class along with any assigned work. This includes having read all assigned material so that each student may participate in the class discussion. Even a single student can slow the pace of the entire class.
- 2- Attendance: Attend each class and lab! I cannot stress this enough. An established pattern of more than 3 absences will lower your grade. Leaving class without being excused will be considered an absence. Arrive on time as not to be a distraction for others.
- 3- Assignments: Beyond reading and writing assignments from the text, students will also have one oral report to be presented in class by the end of the semester.
- 4- Language Lab: Course unit and credits are established in part by the time that is invested in the lab for this class. In the lab, we will be doing a series of activities that sometimes are not in the textbook. It is an opportunity to expand speaking and listening skills.
- 5- Be polite and fun! Pretty self explanatory, but this includes common courtesy toward instructor and classmates. Patience and acceptance on everyone's part on everyone's part helps tremendously.
- 6- Test: There will be, typically, a chapter test on every couple chapters. Tests will include listening, comprehension, vocabulary, reading, writing, and grammar within context. Only one test may be made up during the semester due to an absence on the day of the test, (I still need to be notified by e-mail or voice mail before the test date the student stating the reason for his or her absence)
- 7- Cheating: Cheating in any form is not acceptable. If you are caught cheating or helping another student to cheat, you will receive a failing grade on that test/examination. If the test/examination is a final one, you will fail the course.

Special needs: If you need any special accommodations for this class, please be sure to let me know.

Evaluation:

- 1- Class Participation : (10%) Attendance and participation are vital in learning a language
- 2- Homework: (20%) A series of different assignments plus different oral and written exercises from the textbooks.
- 3- Chapter Test: (20%) These are an average of one-hour length exams that reflect the material covered for each chapter.
- 4- Oral Presentation: (10%) The students will make a short presentation in Arabic at the end of the semester that will cover some of the content material.
- 5- Midterm and Final Exam: (40%)

Grading Scale:

- A 100-90
- B 89-80
- C 79-70
- D 69-60
- F Below 60

Notes:

I hope to make this class fun and interesting. Your input is appreciated. If you have friends/associates, etc... with experience with Arabic speaking countries, please talk to me sometime after class. Absences are not encouraged, but if you know you will not be in class or will miss an assignment, you must inform me ahead of time. I also encourage you to exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses with 2 classmates (study buddies) to find out what you might have missed or so that they can turn in assignments for you.

I have office hours for this class, but I will also be available for your questions or concerns before or after class and by appointment.

Thanks for being part of this class. I am looking forward for a great semester.

Good luck!

Study buddy 1:

Study buddy 2: