

Arabic Coursework

An introduction to standard Arabic, including Arabic letters & sounds, the essential of Arabic grammar, and basic instruction in four language skills: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. In addition to getting a start in modern Arabic, students will also learn about social and cultural aspects of the use of Arabic.

Note: ARBC 2A, 2B & 199 are not offered at Sac State

Seven Reasons Why Now is the Time to Learn Arabic*



1.) Distinguish yourself in the professional world with a high demand language
Given that less than [1 percent of US college students study Arabic](#), just 32,000 out of 21 million total students Arabic language skills will separate you from the crowd, no matter your professional field. In the last 15 years, US government agencies have expressed a much greater need for Arabic speakers to address the complex political, military, and economic questions surrounding US engagement in the Middle East and North Africa. The government is not the only employer seeking Arabic skills, however. The same trend can be seen in the private and

nonprofit sectors as businesses seek to better understand developing markets and organizations work across borders to develop institutions, improve economies, and educate young people. Yet the demand for Arabic-speaking professionals in the US exceeds the supply. Whether conducting research, negotiating an international agreement, or coordinating with an overseas partner, speaking the language of your counterpart gives you an invaluable advantage.

2.) Gain critical language skills useful in over 20 countries

Languages like Spanish and French allow you to work and travel in dozens of countries around the world, but they are also widely spoken among your peers. Other languages, like Chinese, are in high demand but require spending your entire career focused on one or two countries. Arabic offers a blend of critical language skills and applicability in over 20 countries with roughly 300 million native speakers. You will develop the skills to live, work, and interact with a more diverse set of countries, allowing you room to shift focus as you progress in your career.

3.) Develop on-the-ground expertise in critically important countries

Few of your peers will gain international experience during their education. Even fewer will experience countries like Jordan, Lebanon, or Morocco countries where many US organizations have critical interests but lack an understanding of the local context, whether that be infrastructure challenges, different business practices, or complex political relationships. Knowledge of Arabic paired with an understanding of cultural nuances is more important than ever to successfully navigate the challenges and opportunities of the Middle East and North Africa. Relationship-building is a key skill in the Arab world. Speaking the language without speaking the culture will put you at a disadvantage.

4.) Gain insights into the second largest religion in the world

Islam is the most widespread religion in the Arab world, and it serves as a framework through which many Arabs see the world. Through your study of Arabic, you will pick up knowledge of Islamic traditions and beliefs that will allow you to become a more effective intercultural communicator and develop stronger relationships.

5.) Encourage a greater understanding of Arab culture in the US

In a [2010 Gallup poll](#), 52 percent of Arab Americans reported that they "personally experienced racial or religious discrimination in the past year," the highest percentage of any religious or ethnic category surveyed. According to a [2014 poll](#), only 32 percent of Americans hold favorable views of Arabs. By studying Arabic and learning about the culture, you will gain a deeper and more nuanced perspective of the Arabic-speaking world than the typical themes found in US mass media. As you share a more balanced perspective with your family, friends, and peers, you will encourage a greater understanding of Arab culture in US society and more trusting attitudes towards Arab Americans and Arabs living in the US.

6.) Act as an ambassador for your country abroad

Although the opinions that Arab countries have of the US are slightly more favorable than in recent years, their opinions often still lean towards the negative. If you study Arabic abroad or work in the region, you will have daily opportunities to dispel negative misconceptions and promote a positive view of the U.S and American people.

7.) Study abroad through scholarship opportunities

Students benefit from scholarship opportunities to study Arabic abroad at little or no cost. The [Critical Language Scholarship Program](#), [Arabic Overseas Language Flagship Program](#), and the [National Security Education Program's Boren Awards](#) each provide focused, immersive experiences that enable you to reach much higher levels of linguistic and cultural proficiency than is achievable through US-based study alone.

*Source: [Cameron Bean, American Councils for International Education](#)

Fall 2019 Schedule

<u>Course</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Mtg. Days</u>	<u>Start & End Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
ARBC 1A (81004)	01	4	MRP 2030	TR	6-7:50PM	C. Karam

Fall 2019 Course Offering (*please note scheduling pattern*)

ARBC 1A - Elementary Arabic – 1 Section (4 units) – Currently offered in Fall only

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Fall 2018)
- Textbook: *ARABIYYAT AL-NASS PART ONE* الجزء الأول ألسنة عربية Mounther Younes, Makda Weatherspoon and Maha Saliba Foster. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 1st Ed., 386 pages, ISBN - 978-0-415-51693-8.
- Other readings will be made available in [SacCT](#) & on reserve in the Main Library.

Learning Objectives

- To master the Arabic alphabet & sounds.
- To Master pronunciation.
- To develop initial reading, listening, speaking, & writing skills in standard, modern & colloquial Arabic.

Spring 2020 Course Offering (*please note scheduling pattern*)

ARBC 1B* – Elementary Arabic – 1 Section (4 units) – Currently offered in Spring only

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Spring 2019)

Continuation of ARBC 1A, with a focus on the four language communication skills: Speaking, reading, listening, and writing. ARBC 1B will emphasize on Arabic letters and sounds, the essential of Arabic grammar, in addition to discovering classic and contemporary Arabic literature, authors, and texts.

*Fulfills Sac State Foreign Language Graduation Requirement

Peer Language Practitioners Program (PLP)

Room: MRP 2032T

Website: www.csus.edu/plp

[PLP Sign-Up Form](#)

Email: wllsa03@csus.edu

Scholarship Opportunities

For more information on requirements as well as the application process, students are required to apply through the [Sac State Scholarship Portal](#).

Part-Time Faculty

Dr. Clovis Karam, Part-Time Faculty

Faculty Office: MRP 2019 email: clovis.karam@csus.edu Office Hours: TBA



Dr. Clovis Karam earned his PhD in Scholastic Philosophy & Religions from the [Catholic University of Lyon-France](#) (1982), and another PhD in Philosophy from the [University of Lyon III France](#) (1985). Dr. Karam has more than 35 years of teaching, research, and an extensive conferencing experience in the field of Humanities in different languages and international universities. Aside from his part-time position in the Department of World Languages & Literatures, Dr. Karam is also a part-time professor in both the [Department of Philosophy](#) and the [Department of Humanities & Religious Studies](#).