

أهلاً وسهلاً بك في صف اللغة والثقافة العربية!
Welcome to Arabic language and culture!

You are about to begin your journey with Arabic language and culture! Arabic is one of the six official languages of the UN, it has more than 420 million speakers in the Arab world, and it is a key to understanding Arabic culture and Islam. I will work with you to make this journey exciting and successful.

Schedule and location:

Time: (8:30 - 11:55)

Place: TBA

E-mail: haa60@georgetown.edu

Office hours and location: TBA

Course Description and Objectives:

This is a basic course for students with no previous knowledge of Arabic. It is designed to meet your needs to develop basic and communicative knowledge in Arabic and about Arabic culture and society. It focuses on developing the four basic language skills of **Modern Standard Arabic (MSA)**: listening, reading, speaking, and writing, while introducing you to some aspects of Arabic culture and society through selected content themes (social, political, and other). Some expressions in Colloquial Arabic will be introduced, as the themes dealt with require. In this class, you are introduced to topics such as introducing yourself, family, and acquaintances; correspondence with others; weather; describing your studies, school, daily time schedule, occupations, friends, own personal problems, and activities in present and past. The themes introduced will enable you not only to be familiar with Arabic culture, but also to compare some of its aspects to that of your own.

After an introduction on pronouncing and writing Arabic letters, you will be exposed to short authentic and non-authentic reading and listening materials from a variety of daily life contexts and genres (newspapers, magazines, Arabic broadcasts, and short stories).

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1- Perceive and produce the sounds and symbols of the Arabic alphabet.
- 2- Communicate effectively in Arabic beyond your personal interests, and incorporate the cultural knowledge you acquired into short presentations, in writing and speaking, on a variety of topics and current issues, with reading and listening skills developing markedly.
- 3- Use authentic materials, audio-visuals and other linguistic and cultural materials through the Internet and other available resources.

Approach:

This class is a basic course in Arabic. It focuses on the content topics under study (texts and vocabulary) and on the form of Arabic you learn (grammar and pronunciation) through communicative and mechanical tasks and activities in listening, reading, speaking, and writing for the purpose of communication. In this class, you will be assigned some activities to do inside and outside class that will open opportunities for you to use Arabic in pairs or in groups. Your collaboration with your classmates is a must. You are also encouraged to find a conversation partner who is an Arabic native speaker.

You are expected to study the lessons and do the assigned exercises (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) before attending the class. In class, you are engaged with other students in conducting exercises, answering questions, watching videos and identifying vocabulary and answering questions in pair and group activities. The instructor will answer your questions and explain what needs further clarification.

Through its communicative and mechanical activities, this class aims to develop accurate and meaningful language performance. Students are expected to spend between two and three hours outside class in assignments and preparation for the next day's class.

Topics and tasks:

It is expected that the students of this class will be able to perform the following tasks at the end of this semester, covering a variety of topics and communicative functions. The following are examples:

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| Pronounce the Arabic sounds correctly | Fill out forms |
| Read and write letters connected | Introduce him/herself and family |
| Read signs and titles (shops and newspapers) | Describe places and people |
| Greet people and name places | Describe relationships (friends/families) |
| Initiate and sustain short conversations | Listen to the news and short (children) stories |
| Read short texts and vowel them | State age and ownership |
| Give address and telephone number | Talk about weather |
| Express likes and dislikes | Sing short songs |
| Express intentions and wants | Tell time |
| Express daily and habitual activities | Describe present states and narrate in the past |
| Express reasons | Read, write and vocalize familiar texts |
| Write long compositions of 500 words | |

The expected language level: High novice proficiency level in the four language skills.

Please refer to the ACTFL guidelines:

<http://www.sil.org/lingualinks/languagelearning/otherresources/actflproficiencyguidelines/ACTFLGuidelinesListeningNovice.htm>

Required Texts:

- 1) Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Al-Tonsi, A. (2011). *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*, Third Edition. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
- 2) ---. (2004). *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic*, Part One. Second Edition. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
- 3) Cowan, M. J. (1974). *Hans Wehr: A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. Beirut: Librairie du Liban.

Recommended Texts:

- 1) McCarus, Ernest N. (2007). *English Grammar for Students of Arabic*. The Olivia and Hill Press.
- 2) Ryding, Karin. (2005). *A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*. (Fourth printing 2008). Cambridge: CUP.

Course Requirements and Grading System for Evaluation:

1-Class attendance and participation 25%

You must attend classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. This means listening to the DVDs and learning new vocabulary and structures so that you can actively use them in class. More than two excused absences, and every unexcused absence, will result in one percentage point deduction from the final grade. An excused absence means a written note from the appropriate office (doctor, coach, dean) justifying the absence. Please inform me of the absence before the class you will miss.

2-Homework (quality of written and speaking assignments) 25 %

A homework schedule is given weekly. There will be daily written assignments due at the beginning of class on the day designated in the syllabus. Late homework assignments may be checked but will not be given credit, except when the student is absent. You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together, with the stipulation that each student must participate fully in doing the work and must submit her/his own individual paper. Please hand in homework written out on a separate sheet of paper. It is important to follow up on any instructor's comments on your work, and to ask about the materials covered when you are absent.

3-Quizzes and Exams (written) 30%

There will be cumulative quizzes and exams (20-30 minutes each), and you will be notified about their dates in advance. In *Alif Baa*, you will be tested on reading and writing Arabic letters and vocabulary and expressions. Later, the quizzes and exams of *Al-Kitaab* (part one) will test grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening, speaking, and writing.

4- Oral presentations 10%

During the semester you will be asked to create some skits with a partner or make an oral presentation in class. We expect to have **two** of these skits/presentations. You will be notified of the dates in advance. This is in addition to the daily pair classwork activities.

5- Written compositions 10%

It is expected that each student will write a long project of 500 words in Arabic. The project will be due three weeks before the class ends. As soon as the student receives back his/her composition project (5%), he/she should make the necessary changes and hand in the revised draft to the instructor (5%).

Grade scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	65-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-64

Friendly reminder: While you are encouraged to work and collaborate with your classmates, make sure that you only submit the work that is entirely done by yourself. The Georgetown Honor System is in effect in this class:

<https://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/system>