

Introduction to Arabic Phonology and Script – LG-580

Syllabus for Fall 2016: M/W 4:30-6pm
Prof. Steven Blackburn – 860-509-9560 (office)
sblackburn@hartsem.edu

Textbooks: *Alif-Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* by Brustad *et al.* 2nd ed.
Al-Kitaab fi ta`allum al-`arabiyya by Brustad *et al.* Part I, 2nd ed.
Dictionary (optional): *Arabic English Dictionary* (Wehr), edited by J M. Cowan

In this course students will be introduced to two modes of Arabic: the “Standard” language based on the Classical Arabic of the Qur’an, and a “colloquial” version as spoken by the educated classes of Egypt.

No one can be said to “know” Arabic unless both types, “standard” and “colloquial,” have been mastered. This semester begins the lengthy process of doing just that.

Each of the two exams will count for 25% of the final grade; attendance and class participation is also 25%; homework assignments and quizzes on the first two lessons in *al-Kitaab* cumulatively will account for 25% of the final grade.

Students who show steady improvement during a semester will have their earlier, lower grades happily “forgotten” in averaging out final marks.

Learning Goals: (1) to master the Arabic alphabet and sound system; (2) to master a working vocabulary of over 100 items; (3) to begin mastery of rudimentary grammatical structures.

The following weekly schedule is open to adjustment during the course of the semester.

Introductory Class	Arabic – an Overview
Week I	Unit 1, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week II	Unit 2, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week III	Unit 3, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week IV	Unit 4, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week V	Unit 5, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week VI	Unit 6, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week VII	Unit 7, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week VIII	Unit 8, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week IX	Unit 9, <i>Alif-Baa</i>

Week X	Unit 10, <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week XI	Comprehensive Review, EXAM on <i>Alif-Baa</i>
Week XII	Lesson 1, <i>al-Kitaab</i>
Week XIII	Lesson 2, <i>al-Kitaab</i>
Week before Christmas	FINAL EXAM

When learning a language, it is (infinitely?) better to work a little each day than to cram on weekends or over large chunks of time. In other words, an hour each day of review *and* preparation during the week is to be preferred over spending the entirety of a Saturday or Sunday – or both – trying to catch up.

Also, in learning a language, it is better to use your out-of-class time to work on material that has already been presented in class, rather than to “work ahead”. Working ahead risks internalizing faulty linguistic data: This is NOT a “teach yourself” course!

“I’m not here to hand out bad grades” is one of my mottos. Every effort will be made to keep you all up to speed, that being one of the luxuries of having a small class.

Most importantly: HAVE FUN! Even though Arabic is NOT an easy language, it CAN be enjoyable. I’ll try to make it that way; if you work, there is that much more chance of making it that way for yourself

Attendance Policy: Missing six class sessions will automatically result in a failure to pass. Please be in touch with the Professor in order to make up any missed work if you know in advance that you will not be able to attend a particular session.

Plagiarism Notice: The failure to give proper credit for the words and ideas of another person, whether published or unpublished, will not be tolerated. Credit will not be given for written work containing plagiarism, leading to possible failure of a course. All written material submitted by students must be their own original work; words and ideas of others must be acknowledged. Additionally, if students receive editorial help with their writing, they should also acknowledge it appropriately.

Faculty report all instances of plagiarism to the Academic Dean, who will then collect documented details of the case and advance any recommendations for further action to the Academic Policies Committee for review and any additional penalties that may be warranted (up to and including expulsion from the school) will be determined.