



Course Syllabus

National University
Virtual High School
Arabic 1A

Required Texts

Alif Baa': An Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds
by Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal & Abbas Al-Tonsi
Georgetown University Press
Third Edition, 2010
ISBN: 978-1-58901-632-3

Please note that the structure of this course requires intensive individual preparation via completing all the activities on blackboard in the text and on the accompanying DVD.

Course Description
and Methodology

This course has been designed to develop basic language skills in Arabic: listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as a basic understanding and assimilation of the Arab culture in general.

Since Arabic has such diverse dialects, we will be using a variant of Arabic known as Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which strongly resembles *Fushaa* (meaning "The most beautiful, the most eloquent, and the purest.")

- All students are required to learn the written and spoken Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) by the ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), which represents an indispensable linguistic foundation for successful communication with speakers of any colloquial variant (Colloquial Arabic or Dialects).
- MSA is used all over the world in classroom instruction, electronic and print media, scientific research and many other formal situations. Moreover, a good foundation in MSA allows the learner not only to have access to a vast heritage of ancient and modern literature, scholarly work and various types of media, but also facilitates the learning process itself and can be applied to any Dialect the student may wish to study in the future.
- All of the *'Aammiyyah* (Dialect), known collectively as colloquial Arabic (CA), contain base words, segments, expressions, idioms, structures, and cultural references from MSA.

Learning Outcomes

As this course in the Arabic Language and Culture is an elementary one, it will include an introduction to the Arabic Alphabet, Numerals, and usage of basic vocabulary, phrases and sentences.

- We will focus on oral comprehension, pronunciation, verb-building and usage, sentence-formation, and vocabulary building.
- A good part of this elementary course will be devoted to the recognition/writing of letters and to the formation process of simple words/phrases/sentences in Arabic script.
- This represents the indispensable foundation for successful oral and written communication.
- Emphasis will be then placed on the development of language proficiency at the Elementary Level by the ACTFL.
- On the other hand, since no language course is ever accurately approached without a profound study of the people who speak it, we will get to know famous people in light of their Arab heritage and make the exotic familiar.



Course Structure

This class will cover Units One through Ten of the Alif Baa textbook:

Please note that the structure of this course requires intensive individual preparation, reviewing all the materials, completing all the activities in the text, blackboard and on the accompanying DVD.

It is also suggested that students partake in Arab culture as well by eating at ethnic restaurants, watching movies, documentaries with English subtitles, to observe the dress, dwellings, cuisine and customs or even listening to music by such singers as Fayrouz, Umm Kalthoum, Asmahan or Farid Al-Atrash (to take in the music of the language).

Therefore, the four courses of NUVHS Arabic represent a section a program carefully designed in order to take learners from the Beginning to the Advanced level by the ACTFL. The major outlines of the whole program are as follows:

- The program provides a wide variety of exercises, drills (in order to reinforce grammar points), vocabulary, and communicative strategies.
- Audio-video DVDs accompanying the books taught allow the learner to have his own tutor all the time.
- The student has to check the videos, audios, websites and the other learning materials to fasten acquiring the language skills and integrate students into authentic materials.
- Learning how to develop cultural insights is also introduced based upon the Arabic folklore, customs, proverbs, cuisine, etc.

Course Modules

All the modules in this course contain materials that explaining the grammar, a multimedia presentation of interviews with native speakers or cultural information, a lecture on some aspects of culture with links to pertinent websites, discussion board questions, and reading, listening, speaking and writing exercises for practice.

Module 1: Units 1 & 2 in Alif Baa'

- Introduction to Arabic Language
- Introduction to Arabic culture
- Arabic Alphabet (أ، ب، ت، ث)
- Short & Long Vowels
- The formal greetings in Arabic
- Cultural Diversity in the Arabic World

Module 2: Unit 3 in Alif Baa'

- Arabic Alphabet (ج، ح، خ)
- The consonant (و، ي)
- The Five Pillars of Islam
- The concept of the head cover for Muslims women
- Introduce self in Arabic

Module 3: Unit 4 in Alif Baa'

- The Arabic Alphabet, continued (ز، ر، د، ذ).
- Connectors and Non-Connectors
- The Hamza (and its various spellings)
- Arabic numbers 0-10
- The Golden Age of Arabic culture



Module 4: Unit 5 in Alif Baa'

- The Arabic Alphabet, continued (س، ش، ص، ض).
- The Shadda (and its function)
- Colors in masculine and feminine forms
- Key features of Arabic house structure

Module 5: Units 6 & 7 in Alif Baa'

- The Arabic Alphabet, continued (ط، ظ، ع، غ).
- Positions of Letters in the Alphabet
- Masculine and Feminine Nouns
- Forms of Address, Taking Leave, & Café Time
- The Arabic Alphabet, continued (ف، ق، ك، ل).
- Nominal and verbal sentences
- Arab hospitality and generosity

Module 6: Unit 8 in Alif Baa'

- The Arabic Alphabet, continued (م، ن، هـ).
- Reading strategies in Arabic
- The Hamza (continued)
- Diversity in the Arab World
- Arabic forms of government / sociopolitical structure

Module 7: Unit 9 in Alif Baa'

- Types of Definite Articles
- Sun and Moon Letters
- Hamza Alwasei
- The Arabic Family Structure

Module 8: Unit 10 in Alif Baa'

- Dagger Alif
- Hamza Alwasel
- Types of Notation in Nouns
- Arabic writing system and calligraphy

Evaluation

Student work will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Quality of student work
2. Ability to discern letters when heard and to form letters correctly, both independently and when connected
3. Comprehension of basic vocabulary
4. Correct spelling
5. Contribution to Discussion Boards including following all instructions, posting a thoughtful response and responding appropriately to other students' posts.
6. Evaluations may consist of short answer items and multiply choice items.



Course Grading

The Grading Scale for this course is as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage Earned
A	95%+
A-	90% - 94.9%
B+	87% - 89.9%
B	84% - 86.9%
B-	80% - 83.9%
C+	77% - 77.9%
C	74% - 76.9%
C-	70% - 73.9%
D+	67% - 69.9%
D	64% - 66.9%
D-	60% - 63.9%
F	59% and lower

Academic Integrity

Students are required to cite the use of materials written by others in all written communications for courses. Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas or work as one's own. This includes using ideas, words, or phrases without proper attribution. Students found plagiarizing are subject to penalties, which may include a failing grade for the working question or for the entire course

Student's Role and Responsibilities in this Course

Expectations:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner that reflects sound ethics, honor, and good citizenship. It is the student's responsibility to maintain academic honesty and integrity and to manifest their commitment to the goals of NUVHS through their conduct and behavior. Students are expected to abide by all NUVHS policies and regulations. Any form of academic dishonesty, or inappropriate conduct by students or applicants may result in penalties ranging from warning to dismissal, as deemed appropriate by NUVHS.

Communication:

Throughout this course students will need to be in close contact with their instructor and fellow students. Students are expected to communicate via Course Message and electronic discussion boards. Therefore, students should plan on checking their Course Messages at least five times a week and participate in the discussion boards during the weeks they are live.

Instructors strongly encourage and welcome open communication. Clear, consistent, and proactive communication will ensure a successful experience in this course. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor immediately if and when a personal situation occurs that affects his/her performance in this class. Being proactive with communication will result in a quick solution to any problems that may occur.

Technical Support is offered through Student Concierge Services (SCS). Should a student need any technical assistance, he/she are to email the Help Desk as soon as possible at scs@nu.edu or call 1-866-



628-8988. For help with login/password issues, or other technical issues specific to the Blackboard website, you can contact the team at [National University Blackboard Learn](#). They can also be reached by phone at (888) 892-9095. If a problem persists for more than 48 hours, the student must also notify his/her teachers and NUVHS.

NUVHS Expected School wide Learning Results (ESLRs)

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It is anticipated that NUVHS students will be:

Engaged Learners

1. Demonstrate self-directed learning skills such as time management, and personal responsibility through the completion of course requirements
2. Develop an understanding of their own preferred learning styles to enhance their overall academic potential
3. Incorporate effective and relevant internet and multimedia resources in their learning process to broaden their knowledge base

Critical Thinkers

1. Effectively analyze and articulate sound opinions on a variety of complex concepts
2. Illustrate a variety of problem-solving strategies that strengthen college preparation and workforce readiness
3. Formulate a framework for applying a variety of technology and internet-based research to enhance information literacy and collaborative thinking

Effective Communicators

1. Demonstrate awareness and sensitivity to tone and voice in multiple forms of communication
2. Express concepts and ideas in a variety of forms
3. Enhance communication skills through the use of media rich or other technology resources

Global Citizens

1. Appreciate the value of diversity
2. Understand the range of local and international issues facing today's global community
3. Demonstrate awareness of the importance of cultural sensitivity and social responsibility in the 21st century

Useful References

1. **The Arabic Language**, Kees Versteegh
2. **The Arabic Language in America**, Aleya Rouchdy
3. **Arabic Language Handbook**, (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics), Mary Catherine Bateson
4. **Arabic a Language Map**, (Language Map Series), Kristine K. Kershul & Michelle Poole
5. **The Arabic Language Today**, (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics), A.F.L. Beeston & Clive Holes
6. **The Arabic Linguistic Tradition**, (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics), Georges Bohas, Jean-Patrick Guillaume & Djamel Kouloughli
7. **Arabic On the Move**, Jane Wightwick
8. **A Basic Course in Iraqi Arabic**, (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics), Wallace M. Erwin
9. **A Dictionary of Iraqi Arabic: English, Arabic/Arabic, English**, (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics), Beverly E. Clarity, Karl Stowasser, Ronald G. Wolfe & D.R.



Woodhead

10. **Easy Arabic Grammar**, Jane Wightwick & Mahmoud Gaafar
11. **Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics: A-Ed**, Kees Versteegh
12. **Grammar of the Classical Arabic Language in 7 Parts**, M.S. Howell
13. **A Grammar of the Arabic Language**, W. Wright
14. **An Introduction to Koranic and Classical Arabic: An Elementary Grammar of the Language Key to Exercise**, Wheeler M. Thackston
15. **Iraqi Phrasebook: The Complete Language Guide for Contemporary Iraq**, Yasim M. Alkalesi & Yasin Alkalesi
16. **Key to a New Arabic Grammar: Of the Written Language**, John A. Haywood & H.M Nahmad
17. **Modern Arabic: Structures, Functions, and Varieties**, (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics), Clive Holes
18. **A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic**, Karin C. Ryding
19. **Self-Taught Arabic Book**, Nisreen Beshqoy
20. **A Short Reference Grammar of Iraqi Arabic**, (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics), Wallace M. Erwin