

COURSE OUTLINE ARB 101:

BASIC ARABIC I COURSE DESCRIPTION

This first course in a sequential series introduces students to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing standard Arabic. Lexis and structure are presented and practiced in context with glimpses at culture and civilization. By the end of the course, students should be able to embark upon further study of Arabic grammar.

Prerequisite: The course is open to students who have no knowledge of Arabic.

Credit hours: 3.

The course content for ARB 101 directly contributes to the attainment of the Higher Order Thinking, Literacy and Global Understanding & Multicultural Perspective outcomes in the General Education outcomes framework.

EXPECTED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Identify and use Arabic script
- b. Identify and use personal pronouns
- c. Identify and use present verb forms, identify past and future
- d. Identify and use basic noun and adjective forms
- e. Identify and use gender and number
- f. Ask and answer questions with who, what, where, when, how, etc.
- g. Ask and give simple directions, instructions (Imperatives)
- h. Make comparisons and suggestions

COURSE CONTENT

- a. The Arabic Alphabet 2
- b. Descriptive phrases, definite/indefinite articles
- c. Verbs in the present tense
- d. Possessives, demonstrative pronouns
- e. Numbers, time expressions, prepositions
- f. Verbs in the Past tense

- g. Negatives, emphasis
- h. Duals, plurals
- i. Verbs in the future tense
- j. Verb “to have”, relative pronouns
- k. Adjectives, comparatives, determiners

The material will be introduced and practiced through lectures, conversation, listening and reading comprehension, dictations and group presentations.

Week 1: Topic: The Arabic Alphabet (Outcome a)

Reasons for studying Arabic (Prominence of the language in business circles and international organizations) – Introduction to Arabic script: Letters and sounds – Letters in different positions – Short vs. long vowels – lamalif, taa’ marbutah and hamza – Doubled letters and ‘zero vowel’ sign – Practice and dictation.

Assignment # 1: Using Arabic script

Week 2: Topic: Descriptive phrases, definite/indefinite articles (Outcomes a, b, d, f)

Greeting others – Responding to greetings – Short descriptive phrases – Definite and indefinite – Meeting people – Saying where you are from – Culture: Geography of the Arab World.

Assignment # 2: Dialogue completion

Week 3: Topic: Verbs in the Present tense (Outcomes a, b, c, d, h)

Simple sentences and questions with is/are – Simple sentences with there is/there are – Numbers 1-10 – Saying your nationality – Saying which languages you speak – Talking about more than one object (plural) – Some places in town – Some professions.

Quiz # 1: Sentence completion, gap filling

Week 4: Topic: Possessives, demonstrative pronouns (Outcomes a, b, c, d, e, f)

Telling/asking the time – Days of the week – Numbers 11-20 – Phrases, sentences with this, that, those – Talking about family – Possessive pronouns (suffixes) – Describing things – Culture: Brief history of the Arab World.

Assignment # 3: Gap-filling, reading comprehension and questions

Week 5: Topic: Numbers, time expressions, prepositions (Outcomes a, c, d, e, f, g)

Numbers 21-100 – Telling time – Asking and giving simple directions – Talking about places and their location – Possessives with two nouns.

Assignment # 4: Dialogue completion, translation

Week 6: (Outcomes a, b, c, d, f) Topic: Verbs in the Past tense

Talking about the past – Means of transport – Arabic verbs – Saying me, him, them, etc. – Saying was/were – Culture: Main holidays, customs in the Arab World.

Quiz # 2: Reading comprehension and questions

Week 7: Revision – Midterm examination

Week 8: (Outcomes a, b, c, d, e) Topic: Negatives, emphasis

Saying is/are not – Describing things – Saying became – Sentences with inna and anna (indeed and that) – Saying you had done something (Past perfect). (Group presentation 1)

Assignment # 5: Affirmative/negative, translation

Week 9: (Outcomes a, b, c, d, e) Topic: Duals, plurals

Looking for a job in the paper – Looking for a flat or a house – Talking about more than one person or thing – Saying these/those – Talking about two people or things (dual) (Group presentation 2)

Assignment # 6: Using duals and plurals

Week 10: (Outcomes a, b, c, d, f) Topic: Verbs in the future tense

Talking about daily activities – Talking about interests – Talking about likes and dislikes – Talking about the future – More about negatives.

(Group presentation 3) Quiz # 3: Composition

Week 12: (Outcomes a, b, c, d, e, h)

Topic: Adjectives, comparatives, determiners

Making comparisons – Making suggestions – Talking about each, every, all and some – Using irregular nouns and adjectives. (Group presentation 5)

Quiz # 4: Reading comprehension and questions

Week 13: (All outcomes) (Group presentation 6) - Revision - Practice

Week 14: Revision – Final examination

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

- a. Lectures, handouts
- b. Reading, listening (dialogues, texts).
- c. Group presentations: weekly 30-minute segments from Week 8, topics to be selected by students according to interest, relevance. Suggested topics:
 - Non-Arab countries where Arabic is widely used.
 - Arab poetry and poets.
 - Tourism in Africa (Kenya).
 - Relations between the Arab World and Africa.

COURSE TEXT Mastering Arabic, Jane Wightwick and Mahmoud Gaafar, (New York: Hippocrene Books Inc., 2005)

COURSE EVALUATION

- 1. Attendance & participation: 10%
 - 2. Assignments: 10%
 - 3. Group work (presentations): 10%
 - 4. Quizzes: 10%
 - 5. Midterm examination: 20%
 - 6. Final examination: 40%
- Total: 100%

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