

Classical Arabic I (01:013:242)

Course Syllabus

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This course aims to introduce students to the language of the Qur'an and the classical texts, as well as the general history of the Arabic language before the modern period. It is a full-year course. The first semester of the course will be dedicated to learning the grammar of Qur'anic and Classical Arabic (CA), with special reference to the ways in which it differs from Modern Standard Arabic (MSA); during the second semester, students will finish the grammar of the language and begin reading short texts in the original language. By the end of the first year, students will have achieved basic literacy in Classical Arabic and be able to read Qur'an and other classical works of Arabic literature in the original language. Students will also learn to use the standard dictionaries and grammars as references for further study.

Classical Arabic I will meet thrice weekly. Progress will be assessed by several quizzes, a midterm, and a final examination. Class participation and homework submissions will be counted towards the final grade. Attendance is **mandatory**; any more than three unexplained absences will be considered grounds for failure.

Expectations:

By the end of the first semester, students will be familiar with the construct state (*al-iḍāfa*), singular, dual, and plural nouns and adjectives (including both sound and "broken" plurals) noun-adjective and noun-verb agreement, comparatives and superlatives, and the use of the accusative in cases of absolute negation, specification, and other contexts. They will also be familiarized with the perfect (*al-māḍī*) and imperfect (*al-muḍāriʿ*), active (*al-fāʿil*) and passive (*al-mafʿūl*) participles, and verbal nouns (*al-maṣādir*).

Prerequisites:

013:128 (685:128) Elementary Arabic II or equivalent (determined by placement exam).

Required Texts:

Thackston, W.M. *An Introduction to Koranic and Classical Arabic*. Bethesda, MD: IBEX, 2000.

Recommended Texts:

Wehr, Hans. *A Dictionary of Modern Standard Arabic*, ed. by J. Milton Cowan. 4th Edition. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, 1993.

Wightwick, Jane and Mahmoud Gaafar. *Arabic Verbs and Essentials of Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967.

Texts on Reserve:

Baalbaki, Rohi. *Al-Mawrid: A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary*. 14th Edition. Beirut: Dar el-Elm Li-l-Malayin, 2001.

McAuliffe, Jane D. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, vols. 1-5. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Wehr, Hans. *A Dictionary of Modern Standard Arabic*, ed. by J. Milton Cowan. 3rd Edition. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, 1976.

Wright, William. *A Grammar of the Arabic Language translated from the German of Caspari and edited with numerous additions and corrections by W. Wright*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967.

IMPORTANT ARABIC GRAMMATICAL TERMS

NOUNS, ADJECTIVES, PRONOUNS, & PARTICLES		المَصْدَر	infinitive or verbal noun
حرف الجرّ	preposition	فِعْلٌ أَمْرٌ	imperative
إِسْمٌ / أَسْمَاءٌ	noun, pronouns, and participles	الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي	perfect
إِسْمٌ إِسْتِفْهَامٌ	interrogative pronoun	الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ	imperfect
إِسْمٌ إِشَارَةٌ	demonstrative pronoun	الفِعْلُ اللَّازِمُ	intransitive verb
إِسْمٌ الْمُوصُولَةُ	relative pronouns	أَلْفِعْلُ الْمُتَعَدِّي	transitive verb (takes an object)
أَلصِّفَةُ	adjective	وزن الفعل	the “form” of the verb
الإِصَافَةُ	construct state	جذر الفعل	the “root” of the verb
المُعْرَب	a “declinable” noun or verb (final vowel changes)	SYNTAX	
المَبْنِي	an “indeclinable” noun, verb, or particle (final vowel does not change)	جُمْلَةٌ إِسْمِيَّةٌ	nominal sentence
		جُمْلَةٌ فِعْلِيَّةٌ	verbal sentence
		الخَبَرُ	predicate
المَمْنُوعُ مِنَ الصَّرْفِ	an “indeclinable” noun (lit. forbidden from declining)	المُبْتَدَأُ	subject (in a nominal sentence)
		المَفْعُولُ بِهِ	object of the verb (in the accusative)
أَلتَّصْغِيرُ	diminutive form	المَفْعُولُ فِيهِ	adverb of time or place
مَجْرُورٌ	genitive case	المَفْعُولُ الْمَطْلُوقُ	cognate accusative
فَرْدٌ	singular	الإِصَافَةُ	construct state
جَمْعٌ	plural	المُضَافُ	the “governed” part of the construct chain
جَمْعٌ تَكْسِيرٌ	“broken” plural	المُضَافُ إِلَيْهِ	the “governing” part of the construct chain
جَمْعٌ سَالِمٌ	“sound” plural		
المُؤَنَّثِ	dual	التَّسْبِيَةُ	denominal adjective
إِسْمٌ الصِّلَةُ	relative pronoun	أَلنَّصْبُ / مَنصُوبٌ	with nouns, the “accusative”; with verbs, the “subjunctive”
الصُّوْبِ	personal pronoun		
VERBS			
إِسْمُ الْفَاعِلِ	active participle	التَّمْيِيزُ	accusative of specification
إِسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ	passive participle	الحَالُ	accusative of circumstance
المَبْنِي لِلْمَعْلُومِ	active	أَفْعَالُ التَّفْضِيلِ	comparative/superlative
المَبْنِي لِلْمَجْهُولِ	passive		

PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS

For each lesson, there is an oral component (to be drilled in class) and a written component (to be turned in as an assignment). Additionally, beginning with Lesson 12, there will be short readings from the Qur'an and the corpus of classical Arabic texts.

Fall Semester
Week One (September 1-4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of classes; Introduction to Classical Arabic <p>Preparation: None</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 1: The Definite Article, Case and State <p>Preparation: None.</p>
Week Two (September 7-11)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 2: Gender of the Noun, Predication of Existence, Preposition <i>li-</i> <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (pp. 7-8) for class, Ex. C (p. 8) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 3: The Construct State <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 13) for class, Ex. C (p. 14) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 3: The Construct State (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 17) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 17-18) to submit.</p>
Week Three (September 14-18)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 4: Duals and Plurals <p>Preparation: None.</p> <p>NB: CMES Iftar Tonight</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 4: Duals and Plurals (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 22) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 22-25) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 5: Adjectives and Pronouns <p>Preparation: None.</p>
Week Four (September 21-25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 5: Adjectives and Pronouns (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A (p. 30) for class, Ex. B and C (p. 30-31) to submit</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz, Lessons 1-5; Lesson 6: Introduction to the Verb <p>Preparation: Prepare for quiz.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 6: Introduction to the Verb (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 37) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 37-38) to submit.</p>
Week Five (September 28-October 2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 7: Enclitic Pronouns <p>Preparation: None.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 7: Enclitic Pronouns (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A, B, and C (pp. 43-44) for class, Ex. D and E (p. 44) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 8: Demonstratives and <i>laysa</i> <p>Preparation: None.</p>
Week Six (October 5-9)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 9: III-Weak Verbs and Relative Clauses <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (pp. 49-50) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 50) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 9: III-Weak Verbs and Relative Clauses (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A (p. 55) for class, Ex. B and C (pp. 55-56) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 10: Geminate Verbs, Passive Participle, and Circumstantial Constructions <p>Preparation: None.</p>
Week Seven (October 12-16)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 10 (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A (p. 62) for class, Ex. B and C (pp. 62-63) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz, Lessons 6-10; Lesson 11: Participles (cont.) <p>Preparation: Prepare for quiz.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO CLASS (Middle East and Islamic Studies Workshop)
Week Eight (October 19-23)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 11: Participles (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 69) for class, Ex. C and D (pp. 69-70) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 12: Verbs: The Imperfect <p>Reading: <i>al-‘Adlu l-marʃ, bu ‘anhu</i> (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 12: Verbs: The Imperfect (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 75) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 75-76) to submit. Reading: <i>S, ratu l-Naml</i> (27: 22-30), Thackston, p. 77. Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
Week Nine (October 26-30)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 13: Five Nouns, Elidable Alif, Categorical Negation <p>Reading: <i>Baytun l-Á farša fCh</i> (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 13 (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A (p. 82) for class, Ex. B (p. 82) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 14: Imperfect of II = III Verbs <p>Readings: <i>In šÁ’a llÁh</i> (Sakai) <i>Na ‘lu ras, li llÁh</i> (Sakai) Be prepared to read the texts aloud and translate them into English.</p>

Week Ten (November 2-6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 14: Imperfect of II = III Verbs (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 88) for class, Ex. C and D (pp. 88-89) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 15: Imperfect of II-Weak Verbs, Cardinal Numbers <p>Readings: <i>Fa-hÁEa mi×lu AEÁk</i> (Sakai) <i>Min ÁdÁbi muÀÁÔabati l-mul,k</i> (Sakai)</p> <p>Be prepared to read the texts aloud and translate them into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 15 (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (pp. 93-94) for class, submit Ex. C (p. 94).</p>
Week Eleven (November 9-13)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz, Chapters 11-15. <p>Reading: <i>TaqwĈmu l-kilÁm</i> (Sakai)</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO CLASS (K. David Harrison Lecture)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Quiz <p>Reading: <i>al-AĀawÁnu wa-l-Āyaya</i> (Sakai)</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
Week Twelve (November 16-20)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 16: Imperfect of III-Weak <p>Reading: <i>~und,qu Ummi l-BanĈn</i> (Sakai)</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 16: Imperfect of III-Weak (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 99) for class, submit Ex. C and D (pp. 99-100).</p> <p>Reading: <i>S,ratu š-Šu‘arÁ’</i> (26: 70-78), Thackston, pp. 100-101.</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 17: Imperfect of I-Weak and Doubly Weak Verbs <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (pp. 104-105) for class.</p>
Week Thirteen (November 23-27)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 18: The Subjunctive <p>Reading: <i>al-ĒÁdimu l-faÔĈÍ</i> (Sakai)</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Vacation)
Week Fourteen (November 30-December 4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 18: The Subjunctive (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (pp. 109-110) for class, Ex. C (p. 110) to submit.</p> <p>Reading: Selections from al-Dhahabi’s <i>al-AmÒÁru AEawÁtu l-Á×Ár</i> (Sakai): Introduction (from <i>bismi llÁhi r-raĀmÁni r-raĀĈm</i>), Mecca (<i>Makkatu</i>), Jerusalem (<i>Baytu l-Maqdis</i>), Damascus (<i>Dimašq</i>), and Egypt (<i>MiÒr</i>). Ignore the footnotes that take up most of each page.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 19: The Jussive <p>Reading: <i>as-Sanatu l-ulÁ mina t-tÁrÇì l-islÁmÇ</i> from al-Dhahabi's <i>al- 'Ibaru fÇ àbari man Èamar</i> (Sakai).</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 19: The Jussive (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (pp. 116) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 116-117) to submit.</p>
<p>Week Fifteen (December 7-11)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 20: The Jussive of Defective Verbs <p>Reading: <i>Sanatun i×natayn</i> (Sakai)</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 20: The Jussive of Defective Verbs (cont.) <p>Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 121) for class, Ex. C and D (pp. 121-122) to submit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Exam <p>Reading: <i>Sanatun ×alÁ×</i> (Sakai)</p> <p>Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.</p>
<p>Exam Period (December 22)</p>