

Beginning Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB-1003-1503 (3 credits)

Morocco: Human Rights, Social Justice, and Cultural Transformation

This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This course includes an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic: both colloquial spoken language and the written script. To become familiar with Arabic, students will learn grammatical rules, vocabulary, structure, and methods of forming sentences. These linguistic rules will be tied to local cultural norms to give students a broader understanding of their everyday lives in Morocco and Moroccan society as a whole. Not only does the course aim to have students use Arabic to express themselves in daily life, but also to develop students' understanding of Arabic culture through different applications of the language.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Morocco.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Write the Arabic alphabet, numbers, and days of the week;
- Get directions to, and negotiate prices for, transport to local destinations;
- Shop and pay for items and order a meal at a restaurant;
- Understand and respond to demographic questions, such as those about nationality/marital status/occupation;
- Formally introduce others and use appropriate leave-taking expressions.

Through field study trips and exercises, students enrich their experience and ability to function in real life language situations, witness everyday life issues, and immerse themselves in the host culture. Field study assignments are done both individually and in groups. Examples may include:

- Souks (Markets): to rehearse bargaining, learn about different items such as clothing, food, etc.
- Cafés and restaurants: to rehearse how to order a drink or meals

Group Discussions: A group discussion will be scheduled during the course. Students discuss a topic in Arabic among the students or with Moroccan locals.

Language of Instruction

The Arabic course adopts a multi-level methodology that integrates the skills of reading, writing, listening, grammar, vocabulary, and conversation. These skills are reinforced at all levels, and Arabic is the only teaching language used in class, except when it is necessary to facilitate the explanation of a grammar rule or lexical phrase to a beginner.

Instructional Methods

Weekly office hours are scheduled. The teachers may also encourage extra office hours for students who they think need further support. In order to attain the maximum effectiveness and construction of the language course, students have the opportunity to give feedback through written and oral assessments. Oral assessments are based on students' feedback either in class or during the office hours. It is the teacher's responsibility to maintain a daily channel of communication with students in order to find out about their needs and concerns.

Required Texts

Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions, and to frame their daily experiences outside of class.

K. Brustad, M. Al-Batal, and A. Al-Tonsi. (2011). *Al kitab fee ta allum al Arabiyya*, (3rd edition).

Alif Baa. *Introduction to Arabic letters & sounds*.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

- First week evaluation: checks to make sure the students are placed in the appropriate level and that they understand the teaching methodology being used
- Mid-term evaluation: checks whether the methodology used was effective and helped the participant progress and improve their language skills while also accepting participants' suggestions for maximizing the quality of instruction.
- Final evaluation: assesses the language program as a whole and checks whether it met the intended learning objectives of participants

Description of Assignments:

Homework:

- Reinforcement exercises are assigned daily, with students expected to spend an average of one to two hours on homework every day
- Exercises will consist of written and oral assignments, and may include finding new vocabulary items and expressions, listening and watching TV programs with the aim of picking up and understanding sounds
- Participants are supposed to submit the exercises by the indicated deadlines. Late assignments are not accepted

Attendance and Active Participation: 25%

Read the assigned lessons ahead of class time to familiarize yourself with the specific vocabulary and content of the course and thus be able to follow class discussions and rehearse vocabulary with classmates. The aim of class participation is to:

- Ask and answer questions
- Interact with peers and the teacher
- Make suggestions

Written examinations: 15%

The course includes 1 written exam that lasts 1.5 hours.

Oral Presentation: 20%

- 1 oral presentation is scheduled during the program (not including the one of Darija):
- The choice of subject is open to students to decide. The choice is also to the participants to present either individually or in groups where they are free to join students from other levels.
- Oral presentations are moments of celebration as students perform and engage in creative activities through which they express their feelings, reflect on their learning process, and share their experience with peers, NGO advisors, and their Arabic teachers
- The choice of subjects is open to students to decide about, and the time of presentation is limited between 10 to 20 minutes maximum. The choice is also to the participants to present either individually or in groups where it is free for them to join students from other levels. Oral presentations are moments of celebration as students perform and engage in creative activities.
- Students are free to use various aids, whether they are PowerPoints, music, food, posters, etc. However, we discourage students from relying excessively on written notes. Students will be graded on the content, delivery, and creativity of their presentations
- Pronunciation, fluency, width of vocabulary, and appropriate, functional usage of Arabic will be taken into account when grading.
- You are required to use the vocabulary and grammatical structures you have studied thus far.
- The language of your presentation should be accessible to any student of your language level.

- The presentation is open to anyone interested: other professors, other students, even other LZ staff.

Quizzes: 15%

Quizzes are scheduled at the end of each week to prepare the students for both the written and the oral assessments

Oral Proficiency Interview: 10%

At the end of the Modern Standard Arabic course, students are administered an oral interview to assess their oral communication abilities.

Assessment:

Attendance/participation 25%
Homework 15%
Quizzes 15%
Written Examinations 15%
Oral Presentations 20%
Oral Proficiency Interview 10%

Grading Criteria:

Grades are based on in-class performance, meeting the basic requirements of the course, and through continuous participation and class attendance. Class attendance is mandatory and absences are penalized by reducing the final grade, except for justified illness cases in which the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. Two repeated unjustified delays to class are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade. Both the course grade and the competence and performance scores are reported on the transcript.

Oral presentation rubric:

	4	3	2	1
Pronunciation	accurate throughout, understandable; near native	Understandable, with very few errors	Some errors, but still understandable	Poor pronunciation; very anglicized
Fluency	Smooth delivery	Fairly smooth	Unnatural pauses	Halting, hesitant, long gaps
Comprehensibility	Easily understood	understood	Difficult to understand	incomprehensible

Vocabulary	Extensive use of targeted vocabulary	Some use of targeted vocabulary	Minimal use of targeted vocabulary	Fails to use targeted vocabulary
Credibility (knowledge of culture)	Credible role play, reflects the culture	Credible role play, somewhat reflects the culture	Limited credibility, little connection to targeted culture	Not credible, no connection to target culture visible
Performance	Lively, enthusiastic, good eye contact, creative	General enthusiasm, some eye contact, some creative	Little enthusiasm, limited eye contact, little creative	Reads from notes/sheets, monotonous, no eye contact

Attendance and Participation

Due to the nature of SIT Study Abroad programs, and the importance of student and instructor contributions in each and every class session, attendance at all classes and for all program excursions is required. Criteria for evaluation of student performance include attendance and participation in program activities. Students must fully participate in all program components and courses. Students may not voluntarily opt out of required program activities. Valid reasons for absence – such as illness – must be discussed with the academic director or other designated staff person. Absences impact academic performance, may impact grades, and could result in dismissal from the program.

Late Assignments

SIT Study Abroad programs integrate traditional classroom lectures and discussion with field-based experiences, site visits and debriefs. The curriculum is designed to build on itself and progress to the culmination (projects, ISP, case studies, internship, etc.). It is critical that students complete assignments in a timely manner to continue to benefit from the sequences in assignments, reflections and experiences throughout the program.

Example: Students may request a justified extension for one paper/assignment during the semester. Requests must be made in writing and at least 12 hours before the posted due date and time. If reason for request is accepted, an extension of up to one week may be granted at that time. Any further requests for extensions will not be granted. Students who fail to submit the assignment within the extension period will receive an 'F' for the assignment.

Grading Scale

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-

77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64	F

Program Expectations

- Show up prepared. Be on time. Have your Reading completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

SIT Policies and Resources

Please refer to the [SIT Study Abroad Handbook](#) and the [Policies](#) section of the SIT website for all academic and student affairs policies. Students are accountable for complying with all published policies. Of particular relevance to this course are the policies regarding: academic integrity, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), research and ethics in field study and internships, late assignments, academic status, academic appeals, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and misconduct, and the student code of conduct.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook and SIT website for information on important resources and services provided through our central administration in Vermont, such as [Library resources and research support](#), [Accessibility Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.

Course Schedule

**Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs*

- Introduction to Arabic letters & sounds
- Figure out the letters that form your personal name

- Arabic letters & sounds ا ب ت ث ن و ي
- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about ا ب ت ث ن و ي
- Homework : drill 12 /13 page 39/40
- Greeting & self-introducing

اسمك	اسمي	بخير	كيف الحال	اهلا-مرحبا
طالب / ة	ولاية	مدينة	من	تشرفنا
أنت	أنت	أنا	أيضا	أستاذ

- Listening: Drill 4.scene 1: Ahlan wa Sahlan /ALIFBAA p 16
- Speaking: Introduce yourself & ask your colleagues
- Arabic letters & sounds
- long vowels & short vowels:Fatha, kasra and Damma
- Alif Baa textbook ج خ ح ج + sukun
- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about ج خ ج+sukun
- Homework: Drill 4 page 52 /drill 6 page 53 /drill 9 page 58 / drill 10 p 5
- Greetings & self-introducing

هي اسمها	هو اسم ه	مساء الخير	صباح الخير	أهلا
لا	نعم	هل	مع السلامة	شكرا

- Listening: online source <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Q40SRZErhc>
- Arabic letters & sounds: Non-connectors
- و ذ ز ر ا
- *Hamza*
- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about Non-connector & *sukun*
- Homework: Ex 3 p 68 /
- Numbers page 72 /
- Drill 9 p84/vocab p86
- **Grammar:** Demonstratives + masculine/feminine nouns & Adjectives

هَذَا	هَذِهِ	كِتَابٌ / قَلَمٌ / كُرْسِيٌّ	أَمْرَةٌ
رَجُلٌ	كَبِيْرٌ	صَبِيْرٌ	جَمِيْلٌ

Arabic letters & sounds: ض س ش ص + *Shadda*

- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about: س ش ص ض + *Shadda*
- Homework: Drill 14 p 109 / drill 16 p 111

Week 2

- Experiential session : Arabic Calligraphy
- Numbers 0-10

كَم	رَقْمُ التِّلْفَوْنِ	مِنْ فَضْلِكَ	مَرَّةً أُخْرَى
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- Telling phone numbers
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Q40SRZErhc>
- Arabic letters & sounds: ط ظ ع غ + *Taa Marbuta*
- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about: ط ظ ع غ + *Taa marbuta*
- Family members
- 'to have'

عِنْدِي	عِنْدَكَ	أُسْرَةٌ	أَخٌ
أَخَاتٌ	إِسْمُهُ	إِسْمُهَا	لَيْسَ عِنْدِي

Talk about family members and ask your classmates about theirs

شَايٍ	قَهْوَةٌ	حَلِيْبٌ	خُبٌّ	تَفَضَّلْ / ي
ب	يُدَوِّنُ	أَرِيْدُ	لَا أَرِيْدُ	أَشْبَبُ

Grammar: conjugation of verbs « to want » « to drink »

- Writing: Write sentences using the verbs according to different subject pronouns.
- Listening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMUayU4JEeY&t=190s>

- Arabic letters & sounds ف ق ك ل
- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about: ف ق ك ل
- Homework: Vocab p 163 / drill 17 p 165

Give more details about yourself and the others.

أين تدرّس ؟	ماذا تدرّس ؟	أين تسكن ؟
مع م ن	منطقة	جامعة

- Speaking: Ask your colleagues about themselves & report to the class
- Arabic letters & sounds و آ ئ م ن ه
- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about و آ ئ م ن ه

Homework: Drill 9 p187/188

- The definite article ال + Sun & moon letters
- Drills from Alif baa+ homework & reading prepared by the teacher about The definite article ال + Sun & moon letters
- Listen: drill 4 page 198 (Alif baa) • Reading: Read newspapers headlines • Days of the week & activities. • ما اليوم؟ ماذا تفعل/ين يوم.....؟

Week 3

الليل	المساء	الصباح
أشاهد	ألعب	أدرّس
أنام	أعمل	أُقَرِّ

- Speaking: talk about your days and the main activities you do.
- Grammar: Conjugation of the verbs according to Singular personal pronouns.
- Reading & comprehension: "Daily routine of Sara" Text prepared by the teacher.
- Multi-skills activity: ask your colleagues about their daily activities take notes then report to the class.
- Homework : drill p 176

Al-kitaab textbook: UNIT 1

عُنوان	نفس ال -	والدي	والدتي	جنسية	عُمر
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- Listening: listen to “Maha” is saying then write about her.
- Grammar: Nesba Adjectives
- Nesba Adjective: Drill 5 page 8
- Speaking/writing: Read some world’s countries in Arabic then say the *Nesba* adjectives.
- Write about people and you know
- Homework: write more sentences with unit 1 vocabulary + complete *Nesba* adjective drill prepared by the instructor.
- Grammar: extra review for the Interrogatives

م ا	ماذا	أي	مَن	أي ن	كي ف	ة ل	م ت
مِن أي ن			يف أي		مَعَ مَن		

- Extra drills prepared by the instructor about interrogatives.
- Listening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXjzmg5luVQ>
- Speaking: use as many interrogatives as you can to ask your peers
- Reading: Drill 16 page 1

Homework: Drill 16 page 18 + Read chapter 2 vocabulary and make sentences.

Al-kitaab textbook- unit 2

- Vocabulary: drill1 page21/22.
- Discussion: Drill 3 page 23: Ask your colleagues.
- Grammar: Subject pronouns (Singular & plural)
- Subject pronouns: Drill 6 p26
- Extra drills prepared by the instructor about the subject pronouns & verb conjugation.
- Homework: Drill 1 p22