



## BEGINNER ARABIC LANGUAGE

**APA Program:** The Contemporary Maghreb - Rabat, Morocco

**Language of instruction:** Arabic

**US semester credits:** 4.0

**Contact hours:** 36

**Term:** Summer (6 weeks)

### Course Description

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. The size of classes is also kept small (8 students maximum).

For an interactive and creative learning environment, each course sets up its:

- Field Study Trips and Exercises (FSTE)

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

- Souks: to rehearse bargaining
- Cafés and restaurants: to rehearse how to order a drink or food
- Museums and monuments: to learn about historical sites and handicrafts
- Bus stations, railway station, beach, stadiums, etc.: to learn about means of transport and places of leisure
- Learning about Moroccan women and beauty through an informal survey to find out about traditional beauty products (such as henna, swaq, ghassoul, tattoos, etc.) and how they are used.

- Guest Speakers

The course also integrates a series of lectures in Arabic which reflect different aspects about life in Morocco. These lectures include:

- Msid (Koranic school)
- Moroccan cooking
- Moroccan costumes
- Calligraphy
- Casablanca Movie
- Moroccan Ceremonies

Note:

- Weekly office hours are scheduled. The teacher may also announce office hours for students whom they think need further support.
- For the most effective and constructive management of the language course, students have the opportunity to give their feedback on course content and methodology through written and oral assessments which are scheduled through during the semester.

## Textbooks

*Alif Baa with DVDs, Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*, Second edition  
Georgetown University Press, Washington D.C.  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 2004

*Al-kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, with DVDs, a Textbook for  
Beginning Arabic, Part One, Second Edition*  
Georgetown University Press, Washington  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 2004

## Schedule

### Day 1

- Introducing self: greetings, Name, nationality and profession
- النسبية/ المؤنث و المذكر/ الضمائر المتصلة Possessive pronouns (singular)
- Introduction to the alphabets: long and short vowels, non connectors
- واجب drill: read the list of alphabets, Alif Baa: unit 1, p. 7+ Read about the short vowels, Unit 1, p 20

### Day 2

- Introducing self
- النسبية/ المؤنث و المذكر/ الضمائر المنفصلة (للمفرد فقط)
- Demonstrative pronouns: أسماء الإشارة: هذا/ هذه
- من هذا/ هذه؟ ما هذا/ هذه؟
- هل هذا/ هذه؟
- First set of alphabets: ا ب ت ث ي ن و Alif Baa unit 1 and 7
- Practice the letters ا ب ت ث ي ن و , dictation, pronunciation, short vowels+ Shadda
- واجب drill: Handouts prepared by the teacher, connections of the first set of letters+ Unit 1, exercise 14, p 25

### Day 3

- أنا/ أنت/ هو/ هي، هل أنت مغربي؟/ هل أنت أستاذة؟/ هل هو طالب؟/ هل هي بخير؟
- ج ح خ د ذ ر ز unit 2 and 3 pp 28-50
- dictation, pronunciation, short vowels
- واجب drill: Practice the letters ا ب ت ث ي ن و ح ج خ د ذ ر ز

### Day 4

- Numbers and days of the week
- Practicing numbers and days of the week in a game

- س ش ص ض م 63-65
- drill: Letters: س ش ص ض م واجب واجب Unit 4. pp. 51-66, Alif Baa + Handouts prepared by the teacher, connections

### Day 5

- من هو؟ من هي؟ من أنت؟ من أنت؟
- Family members
- Occupations
- Numbers
- Letters: ط ظ ع غ Unit 5. pp. 67-81
- Dictation
- drill: Handouts prepared by the teacher, connections واجب واجب

### Day 6

- كيف ؟
- Adjectives الصفات + Practice family members
- Numbers
- Letters: ه م ف ق ك ل الله / لا Expressions with Unit 6
- New vocabulary expression about the café+ ماذا تريد؟ ماذا تريدین
- drill: Practice the letters ل ك ق ف ه . Exercise 9 pp 98 exercise 11, Vocabulary p 99 + exercise 12, 99-100, واجب واجب

### Day 7

- كتاب من هذا؟ أية جامعة هذه؟
- إضافة Iddafa
- Colors
- Dictation and pronunciation. Pp. 111-112
- Numbers and Numerals, Unit 7, p 116, exercise 11, p 117

### Day 8

- مع من جون؟
- Prepositions من / في / مع
- Culture: At the Moroccan restaurant!
- dagger alif. Pp 121-128, Unit 8
- drill: Pp 121-128, Unit 8 + write a short dialogue about the restaurant واجب واجب

### Day 9

- Possessive pronouns (plural) : عندي / عندك / عندك / عنده / عندها / عندنا / عندهم / عندكم + الضمائر المتصلة
- Practicing all the letters, connecting, dictation, pronunciation drill, unit 10
- Reading: unit 10. p 145
- تنوين الفتح تنوين الضم تنوين الكسر, Unit 10. pp 141-144
- drill: Write a paragraph using (...ك) عند (ي / ك) واجب واجب

### Day 10

- Possessive pronouns (plural) : عندي / عندك / عندك / عنده / عندها / عندنا / عندهم / عندكم + الضمائر المتصلة

- Practicing all the letters, connecting, dictation, pronunciation drill, unit 10
- Reading: unit 10. p 145
- تنوين الفتح تنوين الضم تنوين الكسر , Unit 10. pp 141-144
- عند (ي/ك...) drill: Write a paragraph using واجب

### Day 11

- هل عندك؟+؟ بك م Fruit and vegetables In the souk
- Practice numbers
- نشاط قراءة : Newspaper headlines
- واجب drill: Write a dialogue about the souk

### Day 12

- Practice: كيف؟ هل؟ أين؟ من أين؟ ما؟ كم؟ with staff (outside of the class)
- At the doctor: Fus'ha El markez
- Time: الساعة
- كيف نقول . . . . بالعربية: Find new vocabulary: In your homestay, use question: واجب drill:

### Day 13

- 3/ 4 تمارين Al Kitaab, Unit 1 pp1- 6
- تمرين قراءة 7
- (قواعد المذكر والمؤنث: تمرين 8) من 1 الى 8
- واجب drill: Unit 1.exercise 2 p. 2 + exercises 5 p. 4 + exercise 8 p. 8 (from 9 to 16)

### Day 14

- 9 تمرين p. 9
- 11 13/15/ تمارين Al Kitaab, Unit 1
- واجب drill: 12 14/ تمرين + Unit 2 : learn the new vocabulary and grammar

### Day 15

- نص من كتاب العربية المعاصرة ص 12
- تمرين 16 العربية المعاصرة
- P. 19 Al Kitaab Unit 2
- تمرين 2/3/6
- واجب drill: 5 4/ تمرين

### Day 16

- Unit 2, pp. 22-26
- تمرين 8+ 15
- واجب drill: 7+ 14 تمرين + Unit 3: learn the new vocabulary and grammar

### Day 17

- Al Kitaab Unit 3
- تمرين 10
- واجب drill: 3/6/7 تمرين

### Day 18

- Al Kitaab, Unit 3
- - محادثة ونشاط قراءة: تمارين: 9
- - تمارين 12/15
- drill: 17 تمارين + إنشاء + Unit 4: learn the new vocabulary and grammar واجب

### Day 19

- Al Kitaab Unit 4
- تمارين 15 19/20 /
- drill: 9 تمارين + Unit 5: Learn the new vocabulary and grammar واجب

### Day 20

- Al Kitaab Unit 4
- تمارين 3 :5/10/ 4/
- تمارين 18 drill:/ 2/7/ واجب

### Day 21

- Al Kitaab, Unit 4
- تمارين: 5/10
- تمارين 18 drill:/ 2/7/ واجب

### Day 22

- Al Kitaab Unit 4
- تمارين 15 19/20 /
- drill: 9 تمارين + Unit 5: Learn the new vocabulary and grammar واجب

### Day 23

- Al Kitaab Unit 4
- تمارين: 19/20

### Day 24

- Al Kitaab: Unit 5
- تمارين 2 3/
- تمارين / 5/6
- تمارين 1/7 drill: واجب

### Day 25

- Al Kitaab, Unit 5
- تمارين 10/11
- نشاط قراءة: تمارين 12
- تمارين 5، العربية المعاصرة ص 192 drill: واجب

### Day 26

- Al Kitaab, Unit 5
- تمارين / 14 9

- drill: 8 15 / واجب + تمرين Unit 6 : Learn the new vocabulary and grammar
- تمرين / 16
- drill: 8 15 / واجب + تمرين Unit 6 : Learn the new vocabulary and grammar

### Day 27

- Al Kitaab, unit 6
- تمرين 2/7/8 -
- تمرين 2 ص 149 ، العربية المعاصرة
- لأن/بسبب/ل drill: + تمرين 1 إنشاء using present tense and واجب

### Day 28

- Al Kitaab Unit 6
- تمرين ( / 17 / 5- 15 من 1 / 16/ 18
- تمرين 13 : الدرس 6 من العربية المعاصرة، نشاط قراءة +أسئلة للفهم
- drill: + 9/11 تمرين Unit 7, learn the new vocabulary and grammar واجب

### Day 29

- Al Kitaab, Unit 7
- تمرين 1/3/6/8/9
- تمرين 2+5 drill: واجب
- الثقافة: هوايتك: ص - + 116 117
- واجب: أكتب في 6 أسطر عن هوايتك المفضلة -

### Day 30

- Al Kitaab, Unit 7
- تمرين 16/17
- تمرين 19
- drill: 18 تمرين + Unit 8: learn the new vocabulary and grammar واجب

### Assessment

Grades are assigned by the language instructors based on the evaluation criteria that are as follows: Estimated oral proficiency interviews are conducted at the end of the semester to provide the assessment of the students' overall linguistic progress. Thus, the course grades provide an assessment of the students' performance in meeting the requirements of the language class while estimated written proficiency provides an assessment of the students' linguistic competence in the host language. Both the course grade and the competence and performance scores are reported on the transcript.

Class attendance is mandatory and absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. Besides, two repetitive and unjustified delays are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade.

## **The grading criteria for language:**

### **Homework: 15%**

Reinforcement exercises are assigned daily, with students expected to spend an average of 2 hours of homework everyday. 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 rehearsing strategies of picking up and understanding sounds. Participants are supposed to submit the exercises within the indicated deadlines; otherwise the exercise is not accepted, which will affect the course grade. Most of the homeworks are to be turned in in written form in all levels with the aim of reinforcing students' writing and spelling skills by rewriting them in full sentences and not just filling in the blanks. Other homeworks are not to be turned in in written form. These are related to reading grammar or vocabulary sections from Al-Kitaab with the aim of preparing the students ahead of class time to avoid using the foreign language.

### **Participation: 10% (attendance is mandatory, students do not get points for attending)**

The aim of class participation is to:

- Express your views
- Ask questions
- Make suggestions
- 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 your vocabulary.

### **Written examination: 30%**

The course includes a mid term and a final assessment that last one hour and a half each. Each week around 20 minutes are devoted to reviewing the vocabulary and grammar covered.

- First week evaluation: the purpose of this first evaluation is to make sure the students are placed in the appropriate level and that they understand the teaching methodology to be used for the semester.
- Mid-term evaluation: This assessment first checks whether the methodology used was effective and helped the participant progress and improve their language skills. Second, the purpose is also to implement the participants' suggestions and recommendations in the rest of the semester for better quality teaching.
- Final evaluation: It assesses the language program as a whole and checks whether it met the intended learning objectives of participants.

### **Oral presentation: 10%**

Two oral presentations are scheduled during the program. The choice of subjects is open to students to decide about and the time of presentation is limited 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 of moments of celebration as students perform and engage in creative activities.

### **Quizzes: 25%**

5 quizzes are scheduled in each Arabic course level to prepare the students for both of the written and the oral exams. They aim at keeping up with the previously covered issues related to different

skills; namely: grammar, vocabulary, expressions, conversations, listening, reading and writing.

**Oral Proficiency Interview: 10%**

Students are administered at the end of the semester in oral interview to assess their oral communication skills.

**A note about oral assessment:**

This is based on the students' feedback either in class or during the office hours. It is the teacher's responsibility to maintain a daily channel of communication with their students to find out about their needs and concerns.

Much of the time is devoted to oral dialogues and conversations about how basic interactions are run. In this respect, the course will cover different issues related to daily life such as: Greetings, introducing oneself and others, presenting family members, describing things and people, directions and locations in terms of space (as in the street), bargaining and ordering (in the market, café, restaurant, etc.), weather, schedules (daily or weekly activities: permanent events), hobbies, narration and the like.

We also place much importance on the grammatical and structural aspects of the language, where the learners will cover tenses (present, past and future) mainly using regular verbs, sentence structure (noun sentence and verb sentence) and some cohesive devices. The focus is also on the writing and reading, for a better mastery of script and pronunciation. To reach such a goal, we will start focusing on correct articulation and pronunciation of sounds, assimilating the letter positions to combine them into words and therefore acquire a set of very useful vocabulary items, forming meaningful sentences and ending by writing and reading simple texts related to the above mentioned conversational situations.

In the very first two weeks, the course proceeds by focusing more on the communicative level by introducing dialogues about real life themes. However, an introduction about alphabets, in each session, will intervene as part of the lesson. For a better mastery of the script, the learner continues with the alphabets even as the course progresses. Students are expected to do exercise such as: connections, dictation, reading and pronunciation. Our concern at this level is not the use of short vowels, except in the case endings such as adverbs, negations, etc. but to help participants read easily Arabic documents, announcement, signs, etc. which do not utilize vocalization. Materials used for this level are: *Alif Baa textbook*, *Alkitaab fii Taalum Alarabiya* part one, lessons prepared by program teachers, Audio/video, *Al-arabia al-muaassira*, *Ahlan Wa Sahlan*.

This course is administered by our on-site partner, Langzone 