

**Johns Hopkins University**

**Language Teaching Center**

**Beginning Arabic Syllabus, Fall 2008**

Class Title: Beginning Arabic I-AS.375.115  
Instructors: Fadel Abdallah & Khalil Tahrawi

Office Phone: (410) 516-8932  
[afadell@jhu.edu](mailto:afadell@jhu.edu); [ktahrawi@jhu.edu](mailto:ktahrawi@jhu.edu)

Office: 173 Kreiger Hall  
Office Hours for F. Abdallah:  
10:15-11:30 M. & W. or (by appointment)  
Office Hours for K. Tahrawi:  
12:15-1:00 M. & W. or (by appointment)

---

**Course Description:**

This is an initiation course in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Modern Standard Arabic. In its first stage of about 4 weeks, the students will spend their time in systemic learning of the sounds and written shapes of Arabic letters. They will also learn the vowel system of Arabic as a necessary prelude to correct pronunciation and reading. Simultaneously, they will be learning the most common Arabic phrases related to greetings, getting acquainted situations and other important courtesy expressions.

In its second stage, the students will embark systemically on listening to recorded texts, reading written productions of these texts, learning specific basic vocabulary and building up a repertoire of about 500-700 words. Basic grammatical rules related to nouns, verbs and particles will be learned, not as an end in themselves, but as a necessary tool to understanding how the language works.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the students are expected to:

1. Master the sounds of the Arabic alphabet.
2. Master the writing system of Arabic in regard to the proper shaping of the letters, connected and non-connected letters.
3. Learn the vowel system of Arabic, both short and long vowels.
4. Learn the most common phrases related to greeting, getting acquainted situations and other courtesy expressions.
5. Learn how to listen to recorded short texts with comprehension.
6. Learn how to correctly read written productions of these texts.
7. Listening to recorded material and being able to take dictation.
8. Build up a vocabulary repertoire of about 500-700 basic words.
9. Understand simple grammatical concepts related to nouns, verbs and particles.
10. Learn how to ask basic questions and articulating answers to them, both verbally and in writing.
11. Learn the pronouns, both subject pronouns and possessive pronouns.
12. Initiation in learning the verb conjugation paradigm of both present and past tense.

13. To increase their awareness of the Arabic culture and its extended Islamic aspects.
14. To learn how to carry on a basic conversation in Arabic on given topics.
15. To be able to write short compositions in Arabic, of one or two paragraphs.
16. Listening and watching DVD episodes in Arabic, following the story line and enjoying the experience.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Attending class regularly and participating in class activities and drilling.
2. Visiting the Lab on your own time and completing assignments in a timely manner.
3. Turning in homework assignments in a timely manner.

**Evaluation Criterion:** Students' grades will be based on the following:

1. Attendance, preparedness and class participation ..... 20 %
2. Homework assignments and lab work ..... 20 %
3. Periodical oral and written tests (in 2-3 lessons) at a time) ..... 30 %
4. A final oral-conversational and written test ..... 20 %
5. A final oral presentation on a cultural topic ..... 10 %

\* \* \*

**Resource Materials:**

1. **Alif Baa with DVD's, by Al-Batal, Brustad & Al-Tonsi , 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, (Required text),**
2. **Al-Kitab Fii Ta'allum Al-'Arabiyyah, Part 1, by Al-Batal et al. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Required text after the 3<sup>rd</sup> week)**
3. **Supplementary recorded materials and DVD's in the Language Lab.**
4. **Handouts.**

\* \* \*

**Week-by-Week Course Work**

<b>Week 1 (September 2-4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>General introduction to Arabic and its culture</b></li> <li>➤ <b>General Introduction to the Arabic letters: Sounds and written forms.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Introducing the first installment of Arabic phrases related to greetings, getting acquainted situations, and courtesy expressions.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Introducing the following letters and learning their sounds and written shapes in the context of actual words:</b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>ا ب ت ث و ي</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>Unit 1, pages 1-17</b></p>
<b>Week 2 (September 8-11)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Reviewing the letters for long vowels ( ا و ي )</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introducing the three diacritical marks for the short vowels and practicing their sounds in the context of actual words ( <u>َ</u> / <u>ِ</u> / <u>ُ</u> ) (Unit 1, pages 21-27)</li> <li>➤ Introducing the following five consonantal letters and learning their sounds and written shapes in the context of actual words: ج ح خ و ي</li> <li>➤ Learning the symbol of the <u>Sukun</u> as a sign for a vowel-less consonant ( <u>ْ</u> ) (Unit 2, pages 28-39)</li> <li>➤ Introducing the following five consonantal letters and learning their sounds and written shapes in the context of actual words: أ د ذ ر ز (Unit 3, pages 40-50.</li> <li>➤ Reviewing the handout out containing the phrases for greetings, getting acquainted and courtesy expressions.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 3 (September 14-18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A 15-minute quiz in the three units covered in the previous week</li> <li>➤ Introducing the following four consonantal letters and learning their sounds and written shapes in the context of actual words: س ش ص ض</li> <li>➤ Learning the symbol of the <u>Shadda</u> as a sign for a double consonant ( <u>ّ</u> ) (Unit 4, pages 51-66)</li> <li>➤ Introducing the following four consonantal letters and learning their sounds and written shapes in the context of actual words: ط ظ ع غ</li> <li>➤ Introducing the <u>Taa Marbutah</u> as a sign for a feminine gender at the end of words ( ة / ؃ ) (Unit 5, pages 67-85)</li> <li>➤ Introducing the following four consonantal letters and learning their sounds and written shapes in the context of actual words: ف ق ك ل (Unit 6, pages 86-102)</li> <li>➤ Reviewing the handout out containing the phrases for greetings, getting acquainted and courtesy expressions.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 4 (September 21-25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A 15-minute quiz in the three units covered in the previous week</li> <li>➤ Introducing the following three consonantal letters and learning their sounds and written shapes in the context of actual words: م ن هـ</li> <li>➤ Learning the Arabic Numerals 0-10 (Unit 7, pages 103-120)</li> <li>➤ Introducing the Arabic Definite Article ( الـ ), the</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Hamzah of Wasl</i> ( َ ), and the <i>Dagger Alif</i> ( ا )</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introducing the Moon and Sun Letters and practicing the modification in pronunciation with the Sun Letters (Unit 8, pages 121-130)</li> <li>➤ Introducing the <i>Alif Maqsurah</i> ( ؤ ), the <i>Alif Mamdudah</i> ( آ ), and the rules of writing the <i>Hamzah</i> seated on a ( ا / ء / و ) (Unit 9, pages 132-140)</li> <li>➤ Introducing the <i>Fathah</i>, the <i>Dammah</i>, and the <i>Kasrah</i> and their corresponding Tanween forms as case-ending grammatical marks ( اَ / آَ / اِ , اِ / اِ / اِ ) (Unit 10, pages 141-151)</li> <li>➤ Reviewing the handout out containing the phrases for greetings, getting acquainted and courtesy expressions.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 5 (September 28-October 2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A 15-minute quiz in the four units covered in the previous week</li> <li>➤ General review in all the Units of <i>Alif Baa</i> book</li> <li>➤ General review of the greetings, getting acquainted and courtesy expressions covered from the handouts</li> <li>➤ Watching a number of episodes from <u>The Arabian Sinbad</u>.</li> <li>➤ General take-home exam and in class comprehensive oral test.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 6 (October 5-9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting Lesson 1 of <u>Al-Kitaab</u>, pages 1-17 entitled (أنا مها)</li> <li>➤ Listening to the Text (Story) on DVD (at home),</li> <li>➤ Reading the reproduced text from a handout and answering the comprehension questions (in class)</li> <li>➤ Studying the vocabulary (in class)</li> <li>➤ Doing the assigned home-work drills on DVD (at home)</li> <li>➤ Explaining the grammatical points related to <u>Gender: Masculine &amp; Feminine</u> and the <u>Nisbah Adjectives</u></li> <li>➤ Doing the remaining of exercises orally in class.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 7 (October 12-16) {October 13 Fall Break Day (No Class)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting Lesson 2 of <u>Al-Kitaab</u>, pages 18-34 entitled (أنا فعلا وحيدة!)</li> <li>➤ Listening to the Text (Story) on DVD (at home),</li> <li>➤ Reading the reproduced text from a handout and answering the comprehension questions (in class)</li> <li>➤ Studying the vocabulary (in class)</li> <li>➤ Doing the assigned home-work drills on DVD (at home)</li> <li>➤ Explaining the grammatical points related to <u>Subject Pronouns</u>, the <u>Three Types of Plurals</u> and the <u>Nominal Sentences</u>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Doing the remaining of exercises orally in class.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 8 (October 19-23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Vocabulary Quiz in Lessons 1 &amp; 2</u> (in class) and a <u>Take-Home in lessons 1 &amp; 2</u>.</li> <li>➤ Starting Lesson 3 of <u>Al-Kitaab</u>, pages 35-50 entitled <b>(عائلة والدي)</b></li> <li>➤ Listening to the Text (Story) on DVD (at home),</li> <li>➤ Reading the reproduced text from a handout and answering the comprehension questions (in class)</li> <li>➤ Studying the vocabulary (in class)</li> <li>➤ Doing the assigned home-work drills on DVD (at home</li> <li>➤ Explaining the grammatical points related to <u>Idafah</u> and the <u>Possessive Pronouns</u>.</li> <li>➤ Doing the remaining of exercises orally in class.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 9 (October 26-30)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting Lesson 4 of <u>Al-Kitaab</u>, pages 51-68 entitled <b>(كيف أحفظ كل الأسماء)</b></li> <li>➤ Listening to the Text (Story) on DVD (at home),</li> <li>➤ Reading the reproduced text from a handout and answering the comprehension questions (in class)</li> <li>➤ Studying the vocabulary (in class)</li> <li>➤ Doing the assigned home-work drills on DVD (at home</li> <li>➤ Explaining the grammatical points related to <u>the Present Tense Verbs</u> , <u>Negating the Present Tense Verbs</u>, <u>Verbal Sentences</u> and <u>Asking Questions</u>.</li> <li>➤ Doing the remaining of exercises orally in class.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 10 (November 2-6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Vocabulary Quiz in Lessons 3 &amp; 4</u> (in class) and a <u>Take-Home in lessons 3 &amp; 4</u>.</li> <li>➤ Starting Lesson 5 of <u>Al-Kitaab</u>, pages 69-83 entitled <b>(لا أحب مدينة نيويورك)</b></li> <li>➤ Listening to the Text (Story) on DVD (at home),</li> <li>➤ Reading the reproduced text from a handout and answering the comprehension questions (in class)</li> <li>➤ Studying the vocabulary (in class)</li> <li>➤ Doing the assigned home-work drills on DVD (at home</li> <li>➤ Explaining the grammatical points related to <u>Tanween in Adverbs</u>, <u>Noun-Adjective Phrases</u> and <u>Demonstrative Pronouns and Demonstrative Phrases</u>.</li> <li>➤ Doing the remaining of exercises orally in class.</li> </ul>
<p>Week 11 (November 9-13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting Lesson 6 of <u>Al-Kitaab</u>, pages 84-101 entitled <b>(أنا خالد)</b></li> <li>➤ Listening to the Text (Story) on DVD (at home),</li> <li>➤ Reading the reproduced text from a handout and answering the comprehension questions (in class)</li> <li>➤ Studying the vocabulary (in class)</li> <li>➤ Doing the assigned home-work drills on DVD (at home</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Explaining the grammatical points related to <u>Verbal Nouns (Gerunds), Answering Questions Starting with the Particle (لماذا...؟).</u></li> <li>➤ Doing the remaining of exercises orally in class.</li> </ul>
Week 12 (November 16-20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Vocabulary Quiz in Lessons 5 &amp; 6</u> (in class) and a <u>Take-Home in lessons 5 &amp; 6.</u></li> <li>➤ Starting Lesson 7 of <u>Al-Kitaab</u>, pages 102-123 entitled <b>(أنا أكبرهم)</b></li> <li>➤ Listening to the Text (Story) on DVD (at home),</li> <li>➤ Reading the reproduced text from a handout and answering the comprehension questions (in class)</li> <li>➤ Studying the vocabulary (in class)</li> <li>➤ Doing the assigned home-work drills on DVD (at home)</li> <li>➤ Explaining the grammatical points related to <u>The Usage of the Particles (لـ / عند / مع), Nominal Sentences with Predicates Preceding Indefinite Subjects, The Verb (كان), The Particles (كم/بكم) and Numbers from</u></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10 -1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Doing the remaining of exercises orally in class.</li> </ul>
Week 13 (November 23-24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Continue working with the materials of Lesson 7.</li> <li>➤ <u>Vocabulary Quiz in Lesson 7</u> (in class) and a <u>Take-Home in lessons 7.</u></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Thanksgiving Break (November 25-29)</p>
Week 14 (November 1-December 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ General Review,</li> <li>➤ Watching a cultural movie,</li> <li>➤ Watching some episodes from the Arabian Sinbad,</li> <li>➤ Doing supervised lab work,</li> <li>➤ Preparing and rehearsing final oral presentations,</li> <li>➤ Presentation of cultural projects by the students.</li> </ul>
Week 15 (December 7 = Last Day of Classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Continue with the oral cultural presentations by the students.</li> </ul>