

## Syllabus

# Elementary Arabic LAR 101 G

Instructor: Inga Skaara

### **Methodology:**

This course is intended as an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic. It is designed for absolute beginners and can serve as a stepstone to a solid understanding of Arabic. Since we are dealing with a system of writing and sounds that is new to the participants, we will thoroughly go through the reading and writing exercises in the teaching book in order to provide participants with a solid basis. Don't panic, it looks daunting, but there are only 28 letters.

The systematic teaching along with the book will be enriched with practical exercises, music, videos, role plays and games addressing the fundamental communication skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

At the same time participants will learn a lot about the large variety of culture and language in the Arab World.

### **Course Prerequisites**

No previous knowledge required, just curiosity and enthusiasm.

#### ○ **Week 1 (23 May – 27 May)**

- Introduction, cultural background and history of Arabic
- Varieties of Arabic
- The Alphabet, Sounds and basic vocabulary
- First few words and names to get acquainted with the alphabet. Songs, the sound of the language.

#### ○ **Week 2 (30 May – 03 June)**

- Recapitulation of letters and sounds
- Question-answer games/Quizz
- First unit: Greetings

#### ○ **Week 3 (06 June – 10 June)**

- Units 2 & 3 : At the airport
- Countries and cities, varieties and cultural differences

○ **Week 4 (13 June – 17 June)**

- Local varieties of Arabic
- Presentations about the main dialect-groups
- Unit 4 : In the hotel

○ **Week 5 (20 June – 24 June)**

- Presentations about the main dialect-groups
- Unit 5 : In the restaurant
- Food, students present food and find the necessary vocabulary

○ **Week 6 (27 June – 01 July)**

- Unit 6 : At the bank
- Numbers
- Economy vocabulary
- Samples from Arabic media

○ **Week 7 (July – 08 July)**

- Recapitulation, consolidation of the learned contents
- Time for exam related questions
- Last two sessions: Oral exams (short conversation/role play) and written exams. (Three sections: dictation, grammar, translation)

**Books to be purchased:**

1. Teaching book: „al-Kitab al-asasi“ (Volume 1), Cairo University Press (2008/2009 edition) by El-Said Badawi (40 €, Amazon)
2. A good dictionary is required. Suggestions:
  - The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic
  - Oxford Arabic Dictionary

### **Recommended reading:**

„The Arabic Language Today (Georgetown Classics in Arabic Languages and Linguistics)“ by A. F. L. Beeston

„The Phonology and Morphology of Arabic“ by Janet Watson

„Sbahtu! A Course in San'ani Arabic“ by Janet Watson

„Kullu Tamam! – an introduction to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic“ by Manfred Woidich & Rabha Heinen-Nasr

„Marokkaans Arabisch“ by Jan Hoogland

### **Recommended Websites**

<http://learning.aljazeera.net/arabic>

<http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/children/firstwords/arabic.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIG4v24iw0Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE3yaJcOp28>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyJJu3nzmDE>

**A disappointed salesman of Coca-Cola returned from his assignment to Saudi Arabia.**

**A friend asked, "Why weren't you successful with the Saudis?"**

**The salesman explained, "When I got posted, I was very confident that I would make a good sales pitch.**

**But I had a problem. I didn't know how to speak Arabic. So I planned to convey the message through three posters.**



**First poster : A man lying in the hot desert sand totally exhausted and fainting.**

**Second poster : The man is drinking Coca-Cola.**

**Third poster : Our man is now totally refreshed.**

**And then these posters were pasted all over the place.**

**"Terrific! That should have worked!" said the friend.**

**"The hell it should have!" said the salesman.**

**"No one told me they read from right to left!"**