Syllabus

LAR 101G
Elementary Arabic

Number of ECTS credits: 6

Course Prerequisite
No previous knowledge required, just curiosity and enthusiasm. A good general knowledge of grammar and language structure is helpful, as well as the knowledge of any other Semitic Language as for example Ivrit or Amharic.

In this first course of Arabic, we will concentrate on obtaining reading and understanding abilities. For those who aspire to work about the Arab World and deepen their knowledge, this course is designed to provide you with good basic skills to build on.

Course Description
This course is designed for absolute beginners and can serve as a stepstone to a solid understanding of Arabic. Those who consider a career in international politics or commerce with and want to have a more profound access to the Arab mindset and culture, will greatly benefit from learning Arabic, never losing sight of the big diversity of the Arab World.

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. Do not 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 Learning Objectives**

Since this is supposedly a first contact for the participants of the course with Arabic and therefore a member of the Semitic Language Family, we will spend quite some time pointing out the significant features of Arabic, the Semitic Language Group as a whole and acquisition of reading and writing skills in order to provide participants with a profound basis. By the end of the course students will have obtained the prerequisites to read and understand a simple Arabic text with the help of a dictionary and lead a simple conversation.

**Course Materials**

The course material consists of powerpoint presentations, lecture notes, and the required readings. Powerpoint presentations will be made available after the respective classes have taken place. A week-by-week overview of the course readings can be found in the section below.

The syllabus, powerpoint presentations and important messages will be uploaded to the Vesalius portal Canvas (ies.instructure.com). Students are expected to visit this site regularly to keep abreast of course evolutions.

Course material marked as ‘suggested readings’ and ‘additional sources’ is helpful for research and to gain an increased understanding, but is not mandatory. This material can be found online or will be made available upon individual request.

Books to be purchased:

1. Teaching book: Complete Arabic (Series: Teach yourself Arabic)
3. A good dictionary is required. Suggestions:
   - The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic
   - Oxford Arabic Dictionary

Of course, any of these or other official dictionaries of Modern Standard Arabic can be used. Maybe you find a good one in your mother tongue examples are the above mentioned Hans Wehr - Wörterbuch für die Arabische Schriftsprache der Gegenwart, Arabic-German or Larousse Arabe-Français.

**Course Assessment**

Students’ overall course grade is calculated as follows:

- Oral Arabic produced in class, participation (25%)
- Short presentation of country or region (10%)
- Mid-term exam (30%)
- Final exam (30%)
Grading Scale of Vesalius College

Vesalius College grading policy follows the American system of letter grades, which correspond to a point scale from 0 – 100. All assignments (including exams) must be graded on the scale of 0-100. To comply with the Flemish Educational norms, professors should on request also provide the conversion of the grade on the Flemish scale of 0-20. The conversion table below outlines the grade equivalents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Scale of 100 (VeCo Grading Scale)</th>
<th>Scale of 20 (Flemish System)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-100</td>
<td>17.0-20.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>81-84</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>77-80</td>
<td>15.3-16.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>14.5-15.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>69-72</td>
<td>13.7-14.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>66-68</td>
<td>13.1-13.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>62-65</td>
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<td>F</td>
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</table>

Academic Honesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is NOT tolerated in this course. Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity.

Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean and submitted to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.

If you refer to someone else’s work, appropriate references and citations must be provided. Grammar, spelling and punctuation count, so use the tools necessary to correct before handing in assignments.

Please consult the Section “Avoiding Plagiarism” in the College Catalogue for further guidance.

Turnitin

All written assignments that graded and count for more than 10% towards the final course grade need to be submitted via the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin. The assignments on Canvas will automatically check your assignment for plagiarism.
## Course Schedule (Overview)

| Weeks 1-2 | - Introduction, cultural background and history of Arabic  
|           |   - The Alphabet, sounds and basic vocabulary  
|           |   - Songs, the sound of the language  
|           |   - First few words and names to get acquainted with the alphabet  
|           |   - Letters Alif to Sad  |
| Weeks 3-4 | - Recapitulation of letters and sounds  
|           |   - Letters Dad to Ya  
|           |   - First unit: Greetings and forms of politeness (which would easily be enough for an entire semester) 😊  
|           |   - Quiz/game: Questions and answers  |
| Week 5-6  | - Countries and cities  
|           |   - Basic nominal sentences  
|           |   - Quiz/game: What country/city is this?  |
| Week 7    | **Mid-Term Exam**  |
| Weeks 8-9 | - Local varieties of Arabic, main dialect-groups  
|           |   - Celebrities  
|           |   - What can I already read from Al-Jazeera  |
| Weeks 10-11 | - Food  
|           |   - How to order a meal  |
| Weeks 12-13 |  - Numbers  
|            |   - Describing people, places  
|            |   - Quiz/game: Who am I?  |
| Week 14   | - Recapitulation, consolidation of the learned contents  
|           |   - Understanding, reading and producing small texts  |
| Week 15   | **Final Exam**  |