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# Accelerated Modern Standard Arabic I

## (Modern Standard Arabic - Novice, Low Beginner)

**COURSE DESIGNATOR** MRCO 1701

**Language of Instruction** Arabic

**NUMBER OF CREDITS** 6 credits

**Contact Hours** 120 hours

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

MRCO 1701 is an introductory course to Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). In the first part of this course (about 2 weeks), the students will learn the Arabic alphabet (both the script and the sound system). They will learn it through some basic vocabulary and situational dialogues. In the second part of the course, the students will expand the vocabulary and use it to understand some basic structures of Arabic grammar. Students in this course will be taught the basic skills needed to communicate in Arabic including comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Basic grammar will be introduced to facilitate communication. The course will enable the students to develop both the linguistic and communicative competences at an early stage, which will help them pursue their Arabic study later smoothly and confidently. In this part, the students will learn some basic grammatical structures, such as masculine versus feminine, *nisba* adjectives, asking questions, subject pronouns, possessives, plurals, demonstratives, adverbs, the present tense, *masdars* (verbal nouns), etc. They will also learn some functions like talking about oneself, talking about one's family, talking about the weather, asking for reasons, and so on. In addition, they will get acquainted with Maha and Khalid, the central characters of the story in *Al-Kitaab Part I*. The course will target the mastery of the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

### INSTRUCTOR

ALIF faculty

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Recognize and reproduce Arabic sounds and letters
2. Learn some basic functions, such as greetings and introducing
3. Seek and provide basic general information in Arabic
4. Write Arabic words and simple sentences
5. Become familiar with the Arabic keyboard and type in Arabic
6. Read simple Arabic sentences and short paragraphs
7. Become familiar with and use basic Arabic grammar
8. Discuss selected elements of Arab cultures

### COURSE PREREQUISITES

No prior background in Arabic required.

### METHODOLOGY

The students are expected to come to class prepared. They have to watch the DVD component and do the listening exercises at home. They also have to do the vocabulary and reading exercises beforehand, so that they will be able to practice and communicate in class. They are expected to spend a minimum of ten hours a week outside of class on homework and review. The students will also be required to carry out some written and visual projects.

The students will take a quiz at the end of each of the first five weeks. They will take a final (cumulative) exam (oral and written) by the end of the first six weeks.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Any missed classes are not made up for, and will show on the certificate of completion and the grade sheet.

## REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

1. *Alif Baa with DVDs 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, Abbas Al-Tonsi.

2. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya with DVD 3<sup>rd</sup> edition s : A Textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part One*, Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, Abbas Al-Tonsi

MRCO 1701 will cover all *Alif Baa* and chapters 1-4 from *Al-Kitaab Part I*.

The textbooks will be supplemented by additional materials.

## GRADING

### CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Grading Rubric		
A	93+	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of how grades are weighted:

Quizzes	30%
Final Exam (written)	30%
Final Exam (oral)	20%
Homework	10%
Attendance & Class Participation	10%
Overall grade	100%

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1

- Alif Baa 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: Units 1- 4
- Quiz #1

### WEEK 2

- Alif Baa 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: Units 5 – 10
- Quiz #2

### WEEK 3

- Alkitab Vol. 1 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: Unit 1
- Additional materials
- Quiz #3

### WEEK 4

- Alkitab Vol. 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: Unit 2
- Additional materials
- Review units 1 – 2
- Quiz #4

### WEEK 5

- Alkitab Vol. 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: Unit 3
- Additional materials
- Quiz #5

### WEEK 6

- Alkitab Vol. 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: Unit 4
- Review
- Final exam

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you need to miss class for medical reasons, please let the on-site director know in advance of meetings so plans can be made accordingly. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the Director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

#### SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.