

Arabic syllabus

Introduction:

Teacher: Mr. Eldigwy

From the desert sands of Northern Africa, across the Arabian Peninsula, to the plains and mountains of Central Asia, the oases and wadis (canyons) give life to the almost pristine and mysterious barren lands. Lands, inhabited by different mixes of people with a unique language called Arabic...

Arabic has been used as the language of the Middle East region and dates back to the 7th century. As a Semitic language, it is related to Hebrew, Amharic and Syriac. The influence of the written script has gone outside the Arabian Peninsula. Though some of these nations use Arabic as their official language, many other nations, i.e., Iran (Ancient Persia), Pakistan and many Central Asian Republics, have their own languages. They have adapted the Arabic script, instead using of an existing or non-existing script used by their ancestors, to their modern languages.

The traditional Arabic script is composed of 28 consonants. The stand-alone form of each consonant is different from its initial, medial and final form. The vowel system, like Hebrew's vowel system, is mainly used in religious texts and poetry so that beginners are able to pronounce properly. The script, like Hebrew and Syriac, is written from right to left.

Arabic is spoken by almost 300 million people in more than twenty two countries, from Morocco to Iraq, and as far south as Somalia and the Sudan. The languages of northern India, Turkey, Iran, Portugal, and Spain are full of words of Arabic origin.

Modern Arabic varies a good deal from country to country, differing as much as, say Spanish and Portuguese. However, the classical written Arabic has changed little over the centuries.

Mission Statement:

“Recognizing that no work is of greater importance than the preparation of our young people for their roles as thoughtful and informed citizens of the twenty first century, and recognizing too, that U.S. involvement with the Arab World and with the wider world of Islam is certain to remain close for many years, the goal is to increase awareness and understanding of this world language, the culture of the region and this world faith through educational outreach at the pre-collegiate level.”

Brief Description of Course:

Students enrolled in this course of study continue to participate in thematic units that promote effective communication and improved oral and written proficiencies through a variety of instructional strategies and authentic assessments. Students continue to build upon their effective communication skills through purposeful listening, speaking, reading, or writing activities. Students participate in authentic exchanges of information for a real purpose between people, such as describing the location of people, places, and things, inquiring and offering directions in town, communicating about future and past events, and buying and comparing items at a local market. Students communicate in the past, present, and immediate future tenses, and they experience the basic history, geography, and cultural perspectives of the Middle East. This course is conducted in Arabic.

Skills:

What will I be able to do because of what I know and Understand?

- Speak Arabic with appropriate content and fluency, demonstrating effective intonation and pronunciation in a variety of social settings with a high degree of accuracy.
- Understand spoken Arabic in a variety of social settings and respond accordingly.
- Write in Arabic with appropriate content in a variety of situations with a high degree of accuracy.
- Read and comprehend in Arabic from a variety of sources.
- Recognize and appreciate various cultural points of reference.

Instructional Strategies:

In what ways will the teacher help facilitate my learning?

- daily posting of "what you need to know, understand, and are able to do"
- schema activators
- teacher instruction
- listening activities
- use of multimedia (films, internet, computer applications)
- student-centered group activities
- group work
- skits and role-plays
- hands-on manipulatives
- use of authentic materials
- purposeful learning games
- incorporation of multiple intelligences
- incorporation of brain-based learning
 - one-on-one conferencing

Assessments:

1. Homework 15%

Students can expect homework assignments on a daily basis.

2. Quizzes 20%

Students will be given an oral quiz at the end of each quarter to cover all aspects of the quarter materials.

3. Final 30%

The final exam will consist of a written exam and will cover all aspects of the quarter.

4. Final Project 20%

Students will complete a final project which will consist of a 3-5 page essay in English on a topic of their choice involving the Middle East culture and history and a five minute oral presentation to be given in class at the end of the course. Both the essay and the oral presentation will be completed as cooperative project involving two or three students.

5. Class participation 15%

Class participation includes attendance and readiness to contribute to the exchange of language in the classroom.

Resources

Text and Other Resources (Videos, Databases, software, films, etc.)

Arabic Class Sets:

Alif Baa: An Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds
Al-Kitaab fii Ta'alum Al-Arabiyya-PART ONE
Iqra' Arabic Reader