

Arabic Intermediate I.

(2017/18 Fall Term, Fridays 14:00-17:00, Language course, 3 credits)

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Office Hours:
by appointment

Arabic (classical – pre 20th century - and modern) is one of the most important languages required to understand Middle East culture and Medieval history. Learning Arabic is essential to all those who have interest in getting an overall vision of Islamic history and understand the thorough link between Islamic and Christian cultures, political and economical developments, as well as linguistic features throughout middle ages up till recent days. Achieving the ability to read, and later to analyze historical Arabic texts provides the student not only a unique capability of understanding most of the intercultural and political events between Medieval Europe and Middle East, but also to have the chance of creating his own standpoint concerning those events. Briefly, reading Arabic texts in source language opens a wide and new horizon for the student in learning Medieval history and following the development of Arabic language throughout 15 centuries of continuous usage.

Goals and Learning outcomes

The main goal of this semester, as well as the following one, is to apply the massive grammar material we have learned last year. This semester we will learn how to construct complex sentences and create a continuous text or speech. This needs to deal in details with conjunctions and conjunctive structures, which are found on a very large scale in Arabic. Besides that we will make a deep revision of morphology and the difficult parts of grammar, as well as reading and translating sentences. The new thing I will do is that I will emphasize on training the students how to express their thoughts in Arabic and adopt the Arabic way of thinking.

On the other hand we will continue translating Classical Arabic texts from different medieval books.

In brief, the classes will be divided into two parts: Learning Arabic grammar and modern language structures, plus analyzing Classical Arabic texts. Quizzes will be made from time to time without previously informing the students, who will also have to make homework every week. Generally the tempo of this course will be moderate with taking in consideration the lots of other burdens laid on the students.

Week 1 (22/9/2017)

Modern Arabic, sentence structures.
Classical Arabic text 1.

Week 2 (29/9/2017)

Modern Arabic, sentence structures + exercises.
Classical Arabic text 1.

Week 3 (06/10/2017)

Modern Arabic, sentence structures, morphology.
Classical Arabic text 1.

Week 4 (13/10/2017)

Modern Arabic, morphology, grammar exercises.
Classical Arabic text 2.

Week 5 (20/10/2017)

Modern Arabic, morphology, grammar revision + conjunctive elements.
Classical Arabic text 2.

Week 6 (27/10/2017)

Modern Arabic speech training, grammar.
Classical Arabic text 2.

Week 7 (03/11/2017)

Modern Arabic oral communication, morphology, grammar exercises.
Classical Arabic text 3.

Week 8 (10/11/2017)

Modern Arabic oral communication, morphology, grammar exercises.
Classical Arabic text 3.

Week 9 (17/11/2017)

Modern Arabic oral communication, morphology, conjunctive elements.
Classical Arabic text 4.

Week 10 (24/11/2017)

Modern Arabic composition, morphology, grammar exercises.
Classical Arabic text 4.

Week 11 (01/12/2017)

Modern Arabic grammar revision, morphology, conjunctive elements.
Classical Arabic text 5.

Week 12 (08/12/2017)

Full revision and practicing.

Assessment:

The final written exam's date is to be decided later, but it will be after the final week.
Terminal grade: 60% work during the semester, 40% final exam.

For All
Optional