Summer 2014 Course Description and Syllabus for Basic Arabic I: ARA 110/510

Instructor: Dr. Aziz Shakir, Arabic Language instructor at Sabanci University

COURSE DESCRIPTION
(ARA 110/510: Basic Arabic I)

Basic Arabic I (ARA 110/510) is based on a couple of textbooks forming a series (namely Alif Baa with DVDs Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds and partly Al-Kitaab fii Ta‘allumi al-‘Arabiyya / A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part I) developed by a team of experienced native and non-native Arabic language teachers in the United States. ARA 110/510 presents the basic structure of the formal language which is written and spoken in the contemporary Arab World. The course contains an introduction to the pronunciation and writing system, the morphology, and the basic syntactic structures of Modern Arabic. It covers a basic vocabulary of approximately 500 words and introduces ARA 110/510 is aimed at developing students’ essential reading skills and grammar knowledge. Throughout the course there will be also additional audio and video materials presenting both, the standard language and some of the most popular colloquial dialects used in the Arab world.

The materials are designed so that students can do most of the preparation and actual learning of new issues out of class, in order for class time to be spent doing exercises, watching and practicing conversations, i.e. activities that permit maximum participation. Students are also expected to prepare their written home-assignments (including mainly grammar and translation drills from al-Kitaab textbook found both, in the university library and Homeros bookstore located in the university campus) regularly. There will be a couple of quizzes, a Midterm exam and a written Final exam. The final note will be calculated in accordance with the entire performance of each student throughout the semester. Namely: Attendance (minimum 50 %) and class performance: 10 points, Home-assignments: 10 points, Quizzes: 2x10=20 points, Intermediate exam: 25 points & Final exam: 35 points.

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ARA 110/510 is a 4 credit (=ECTS 8) course and during the Summer School it will be taught 10 hours per week.

Levels: Doctorate, Masters, Exchange - Erasmus Mundus DR, Exchange - Erasmus Mundus MA, Exchange - Erasmus Mundus UG, Special, Scientific Preparatory, Undergraduate, Exchange - Socrates Erasmus DR, Exchange - Socrates Erasmus MA, Exchange - Socrates Erasmus UG.

ARA 110/510 is a course offered by SL.

FEATURES OF THE MAIN TEXTBOOK USED FOR ARA 110/510: **AL-KITAAB PART I**:

- Develops all language-related skills including reading, listening, speaking, writing, and cultural knowledge;
- Immediately incorporates extensive use of authentic materials for reading, listening, and grammatical practice, thus relating abstract grammatical concepts to practical skills;
- Presents narrative-based content through audio and video media rather than written text to develop meaning-focused language processing skills, utilizing two main characters and their extended families
- Develops reading skills through the use of composed texts derived from the main narrative and authentic texts from newspapers and journals
- Introduces grammar using spiraling and inference, challenging students to discover the grammar of the language by means of analogy, problem solving, and educated guessing
- Reinforces grammar and vocabulary through extensive classroom and homework exercises that provide constant review and expand to challenge students as their skills develop
- Introduces students to Egyptian colloquial through scenes based on the main narrative to promote the use of shared vocabulary and structure of the two registers to increase listening comprehension skills
- Contains Arabic-English and English-Arabic glossaries and reference charts as well as a new grammar index
SYLLABUS

Week 1:
Introduction; 1. The Arabic Alphabet; 2. Connectors and non-connectors; 3. Arabic Pronunciation and Writing; 4. Stress; 5. Voicing; 6. Punctuation Marks; 7. Nunation; 8. Pause; 9. Unvoweled and voweled texts; DVD (From the textbook Alif Baa with DVDs): A visual footage of a professional calligrapher demonstrating the basic writing techniques of all Arabic letters according to their positions in the word structure.

Week 2:
Grammar: 1. Case: General: Nominative, Accusative and Genitive case; 2. Arabic numerals and numbers; 3. Vowel length; 4. Transliteration; DVD (From the textbook Alif Baa with DVDs): Saying “Hello!”; “Making Coffee” and “At the Coffeehouse”; Culture: The Development of the Arabic Writing System; Arabic dialects. Forms of address; Names of Arab and other Middle Eastern countries; Various listening and writing exercises.

Week 3:

Week 4:

Week 5:
DVD Story: My Father’s Family is Big (“عائلة والدي كبيرة / ‘Aa’ilat waalidii kabiira”); Grammar: 1. The ‘idaafa’ construction= The construct phrase; 2. Possesive pronouns; 3. The past tense form; Listening Comprehension: With family and friends (“مع العائلة والأصدقاء / Ma’al-‘aa’ila wa’ll-asdiqaa’”);
Week 6:

DVD Story: How Am I to Memorize All the Names?! ("كيف أحفظ كل الأسماء؟!");


Listening Comprehension: With family and friends ("مع العائلة والأصدقاء";

Reading Comprehension: The House of the Prophet” ("بيت النبي"; Al-beytu’n-nabawii) & Marriage announcements ("إعلانات زواج"; I’laanaat zawaaj’);

Culture: In the School ("في المدرسة"; Fi’l-madrasa) & The family of the Prophet Muhammad ("عائلة النبي محمد"; ‘Aa’ilatu’n-nabii Muhammad’);

Colloquial: How Am I to Memorize All the Names?! ("إيزى أحفظ كل الاسماء";)

In which department you are? ("Ent fi qism ee";)

Week 7:

DVD Story: I Don’t Like NY City ("لا أحب مدينة نيويورك");

Grammar: 1. Adverbs; 2. Noun adjective phrases; 3. Demonstrative pronouns ("هذا / هؤلاء haazaa/ haazihi);

Listening Comprehension: The weather from Hurra TV and the Syrian TV ("الطقس من تلفزيون الحرة والتلفزيون السوري"; At-taqs min tilfizyuun “Al-hurra” wa’t-tilfizyuuni’s-suurii’);

Reading Comprehension: The weather today ("الجو اليوم"; Al-jaww al-yawmi); Ph.D.’s at the girls’ faculties ("توظائف دكتوراه في كليات البنات"; Wazaa’if duktuuraah fi kulliyyaati’l-banaat’);

Culture: Fairuz and her song: "Habbeytak bi’s-sayf";

Colloquial: I Don’t Like NY City ("مأ بحبيش ماديينت نيويورك"); The weather is very hot ("الجو محرّر"; & No… and no need ("لا… ولا لازى haaga").

A general revision and preparation for the final exam.

Bibliography:

Basic (all three textbooks are found in the Information Center (PJ6123 .B78 2004; PJ6307 .B78 2004 v.1; PJ6111 .E44 1983 v.1) and Homer Bookstore located in the university campus. Besides, students have the chance to order photocopies of the parts covered by the course):


Additional:
Arapça-Türkçe Sözlük, Haz. Serdar Mutçalı, Dağarcık, İstanbul, Aralık 1995;
Hans Wehr, A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic, Arabic-English, Ed. by J. Milton Cowan, Librairie Du Liban, Beirut, MacDonald and Evans LTD. London;
Mehmet Maksudoğlu, Arapça Dilbilgisi, İstanbul 1969;
Mustafa Meral Çörtü, Arapça Dilbilgisi, Marmara Üniversitesi, İFAV Yayınları, 4. Baskı, İstanbul 2004;

INFORMATION ON PREVIOUS VENUES AND CODE NUMBERS:

The contents of the proposed summer course coded ARA 301/501 was previously taught (by me) at Sabancı university during the following semesters:

Fall 2001: ARA 501
Fall 2002: ARA 501
Fall 2003: ARA 301/501
Fall 2004: ARA 301/501
Fall 2005: ARA 301/501
Fall 2006: ARA 301/501
Fall 2007: ARA 301/501
Fall 2008: ARA 301/501
**Summer 2009:** ARA 301/501
Fall 2009: ARA 301/501
**Summer 2009:** ARA 301/501
Fall 2010: ARA 301/501
**Summer 2010:** ARA 301/501
Fall 2011: ARA 301/501
**Summer 2011:** ARA 301/501
Fall 2012: ARA 301/501
**Summer 2012:** ARA 301/501
Fall 2013: ARA 110/510