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# Arabic Language 1 (Language and Phonology)

## Prof. Martino Diez

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course sets out to examine some of the most important characteristics of the Arabic language from a theoretical perspective, in order to facilitate its correct acquisition. Special emphasis will be placed on the phonological aspects, including their historical development.

At the end of the course, students will be able to situate the Arabic language within the Semitic languages and understand its main typological characteristics; they will be aware of the difference between Qur’anic Arabic, Classical Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic, and colloquial Arabic; they will gain specific knowledge about the origin of the Arabic alphabet and some grammatical macro-phenomena such as: binary verbal system, root and pattern, word formation strategies, system of declension and conjugation.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– The Arabic alphabet;

– Arabic as a Semitic language.

– Main phonological and morphological traits of Arabic.

– Qur’anic Arabic and Classical Arabic.

– The standardization process: the raise of grammar and lexicography.

– Modern Standard Arabic.

– The Arab dialects and the theories on their genesis.

– Middle Arabic.

– Diglossia.

***READING LIST***

M. Diez, *Introduzione alla lingua araba.* *Origini,* *storia, attualità*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2018. https://libreria.vitaepensiero.it/scheda-libro/martino-diez/introduzione-alla-lingua-araba-origini-storia-attualita-9788834334225-547563.html

Further readings:

G. Garbini-O. Durand, *Introduzione alle lingue semitiche,* Paideia, Brescia, 1994 (except Chapter 2).

O. Durand, *Dialettologia araba,* Carocci, Rome, 2009.

P. Larcher, *Le système verbal de l’arabe classique,* Deuxième édition revue et augmentée, Presses Universitaires de Provence, Aix, 2012.

K. Versteegh, *The Arabic Language,* Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 2014, 2nd ed.

C.A. Ferguson, *La diglossia* in Paolo Giglioli (edited by), *Linguaggio e società,* Il Mulino, Bologna 19842 (pp. 281-300).

A. Sabrî, *Ahdath at-turuq li-ta‘lîm al-khutût al-‘arabiyya,* al-Qâhira, Maktabat Ibn Sînâ s.d. (supplied by lecturer on request).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam.

Students will be initially asked to fluently read one of the texts studied in the Practical Classes of Arabic. Once students have passed this test, they will be asked two questions of equal weight:

1. A general question about Arabic linguistics (e.g. the position of Arabic within Semitic languages, the language of the Qur’an, diglossia etc.).

2. A specific question about elements of Arabic grammar explained during lectures.

The final mark will be the weighted average of the results of the interim written and oral tests.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

No knowledge of the Arabic language is required. However, students are requested to simultaneously attend the Arabic Language Practical Classes I course to maximise their learning benefits.

# Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

# Arabic Language Practical Classes (1st year three-year course)

* 1. Dr Elisa Ferrero; Dr Hani Giergi; Dr Giuditta Vecchio

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide basic morphosyntactic knowledge of the Arabic language. At the end of the course, students will be able to write and correctly pronounce the Arabic alphabet, distinguish short vowels from long vowels and solar letters from lunar letters, understand simple audio texts, formulate simple questions and answers and express themselves accurately using basic vocabulary and grammatical structures.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Presentation of the sounds of the Arabic language, based on their site of articulation.

– Distinction between short and long vowels.

– Distinction between solar and lunar letters.

– Basic grammar for producing nominal and verbal sentences.

– Listening comprehension and written and oral production of words, phrases, short sentences, questions and answers.

– Guided conversations on everyday topics and situations.

***READING LIST***

– W. Farouq-E. Ferrero, *Le parole in azione.* *Corso elementare di arabo moderno standard,* Volume I, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2020 (new edition).

***TEACHING METHOD***

– Frontal lectures.

– Interactive lectures.

– Pair and group work.

– Practical classes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of a written test and a completely separate oral test, designed to assess the students’ acquisition of elementary morphosyntactic and phonetic skills in Arabic.

The written test is structured as follows: dictation and/or listening (20% of the final mark), comprehension of a written text and assessment of lexical skills (40% of the final mark), tests on morphosyntactic skills (30% of the final mark), translation from Arabic into Italian and vice versa (10% of the final mark).

Total time allowed: 2 hours and 30 minutes.

For the oral exam, students must read a fully vocalised text and conduct a conversation, in order to assess phonetic and phonological accuracy, grammatical accuracy, lexical knowledge and interactive skill, in relation to communicative situations in daily life.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Because this is a beginners’ course, there are no prerequisites. In order to acquire the linguistic skills necessary for passing the written and oral exams, students must attend lectures regularly and complete the activities and exercises indicated by the lecturers.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.