



Modern Standard Arabic for Beginners Part I

This course syllabus and description applies to the 2023 spring semester.

General Information

This is an Arabic language course offered by the Centre for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) exclusively for Lund University staff and students interested in working and conducting research in Arabic speaking countries.

Language of instruction: English

Credits: no credits will be awarded. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of the course.

Course fee: the course is free of charge for participants

This 10-week course in Modern Standard Arabic (Basic User, level A1) is offered during the spring semester of 2023. Classes are held on Fridays (10:15-12:00).

Course Content

The course provides practical linguistic knowledge and cultural background for students and staff who want to study Arabic for work, fieldwork and/or research purposes. Participants will learn to read and write basic Arabic and be able to use the language in everyday situations. In addition to an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic, participants will also get insights into cultures and traditions of the Arabic speaking world. The course is based on a combination of lectures, individual studies and seminars.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases
- introduce themselves and others
- ask and answer short questions about personal details

Entry Requirements

To be eligible for the course, participants must either be employed at Lund University or enrolled as students at Lund University. No previous knowledge of Arabic is required.

Application Procedure

Participants should apply to attend the course by sending an email to info@cme.lu.se no later than Friday 13 January, 2023. Please write “A1 Arabic Course Part I” in the subject line and include the following information:

- full name;
- reason for applying (e.g., fieldwork, research, internship);
- if you are employed at LU, please include your LUCAT id. If you are a student at LU, please include your date of birth.

If your application is successful, you will receive additional information before the course commences.

Course Coordinator

The course is taught and coordinated by Rafah Barhoum, language training expert at CMES. Rafah has previously taught Modern Standard Arabic at LU’s Centre for Languages and Literature and worked as a supervisor teacher of Modern Standard Arabic at the Higher Language Institute at Damascus University. She is specialized in teaching Arabic as a second language. Her teaching approach builds on using authentic materials, involving culture, providing opportunities for lived experiences outside the classroom and building on the students’ motivation for using the language. Rafah can be contacted at rafah.barhoum@cme.lu.se

Course Literature

Bader, Fawzieh Ahmad (2010) *Al-Asas for Teaching Arabic for Non-Native Speakers: Part 1, Beginner Level*. Richardson: Noorart. ISBN: 978–1933269092

Hassanein, Azza (2006) *Modern standard Arabic grammar: a concise guide*. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press. ISBN: 978–9774160127

Wightwick, Jane and Mahmoud Gaafar (2005) *Mastering Arabic grammar*.
Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978–1403941091

Useful Links

- Al Jazeera – Learning Arabic, Introductory Lessons
<https://learning.aljazeera.net/en/lessons/level/introductory>
- Al Jazeera – Learning Arabic, Beginner’s Lessons
<https://learning.aljazeera.net/en/lessons/level/beginner>
- Arabic Alphabet Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vTj68-HcV8>
- Arabic Alphabet Pronunciation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_60iWXI7dw
- Song of numbers (learn to count) with Karazah
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6qWYMEYRXo>
- Song of colors (learn colors) with Karazah
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_PG7w2CwA4
- The days of the week song
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9yuw9_vHMg

Schedule

| Date | Class Content |
|------------------|--|
| Fri. 27 January | <i>Class 1:</i> An introduction to the Arabic language and alphabet. Learning to greet people. Modern Standard Arabic vs. Spoken Arabic, the different spoken varieties, Arabic letters. |
| Fri. 3 February | <i>Class 2:</i> Arabic letters and sounds. Practicing vocabulary. An interactive class with Arabic letters and sounds. Learning vocabulary through letters and pictures. Use of Al Jazeera videos. |
| Fri. 10 February | <i>Class 3:</i> Arabic script, the written system, long vowels and ḥarakāt. Identifying short and long vowels through words and |

matching pictures. Practicing how to connect Arabic letters and making words.

- Fri. 17 February *Class 4:* Additional diacritical marks – the sukūn, tanween, the maddah (~), the shadda (ˆ), and the hamzah (ء). Identifying additional diacritical marks through words and pictures. Culture: meeting people, shaking hands and introducing yourself.
- Fri. 24 February *Class 5:* Practicing letters that are similar in shape and the sounds of letters that are similar in pronunciation. Practicing the alphabet and vocabulary through reading. Exercises: connecting letters.
- Fri. 3 March *Class 6:* Practicing the definite article (al, ال) through words and reading. Definite and indefinite nouns. Masculine and feminine words. Practicing professions.
- Fri. 10 March *Class 7:* Grammar, subject pronouns, and possessive pronouns. Body parts.
- Fri. 17 March *Class 8:* Verb conjugations, past tense, and present tense. Arabic question words. Group conversations. Literature: Bader 2010.
- Fri. 24 March *Class 9:* Days of the week and Arabic numerals. Negation in Arabic. Literature: Bader 2010.
- Fri. 31 March *Class 10:* Arabic question words and negation. Group conversations. Literature: Bader 2010, pp. 224-227.