

ARAB 101 – Arabic Novice Low**Noor Majan Training Institute**

Academic Director: Hussein Al Farsi

Office hours:

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Sundays through Thursdays 1:10 – 2:00 p.m.

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Other meetings may be arranged in advance

Required material:

Novice Low students will use *Alif Baa – Introduction to Arabic letters and sounds* by Mahmoud Al-Batal/Kristen Brustad, et al., second edition (Georgetown, 2010), chapters 1 – 10 and *Al Kitaab fi Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya I* by Mahmoud Al-Batal/Kristen Brustad, et al., second edition (Georgetown, 2006), chapters 1 – 2, provided by the institute. Additional material, such as texts and exercises from other textbooks and authentic sources, will be presented in class.

Recommended text:

The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic by Hans Wehr, fourth edition, edited by J. Milton Cowan (Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services); an Arabic-English Dictionary

Online dictionary: several are available, e.g. the Cambridge Dictionary at www.dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-arabic/

Online learning: <http://www.alef-ba-ta.com>

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the Novice Low level, students will be able to read and write the Arabic alphabet, link letters to words using diacritic signs and pronounce the letters correctly. They will have raised attention levels for similar-sounding letters (س/ص، ت/ط، ه/ح، ذ/ث) and be familiar with sounds that are typical for the Arabic language (ع، غ، ض، خ) and to which students may be exposed for the first time. Students will learn how to form short, simple sentences using the first and second singular personal pronouns in nominal sentences. They will be able to recognize plural forms and male and female nouns. Students will possess some basic vocabulary as used in familiar and everyday situations with a limited ability to use this vocabulary correctly grammatically in all related situations. They will be able to answer formulaic questions with only rare occurrences of mistakes in vocabulary and grammar.

Students will be able to understand the general content of speech on familiar topics and will have developed a more accurate sense of differentiation between similar sounds of the Arabic alphabet for their own text production.

Topics covered:

- Numbers 0 - 10
- Understanding Arabic personal names, Arabic naming structure and traditions
- Understanding, recognizing and applying the gender of Arabic nouns and person names
- Introductions: introducing oneself and others

- Talk about oneself, one's family and country of origin

Media Literacy

Noor Majan Training Institute uses authentic materials from print and broadcast media, as well as from the internet. Students acquire the competence to take in, understand, and comment on news broadcasts, articles, excerpts, and forum contributions using the appropriate register.

For the novice low level these materials can include, but are not limited to, commercial and personal advertisements, headlines, graphs, or maps, and audio dialogues by family members or friends introducing themselves or each other.

Course Requirements

- **Participation in class:** Attendance is obligatory. Furthermore, each student is expected to participate in class and to be adequately prepared to do so. Assignments will be discussed and corrected in class. Students will be graded on quantity and quality of participation. More than two absences might result in the termination of students' course participation.
- **Oral presentations:** Students will have to give weekly presentations in class about different issues.
- **Portfolio:** Students will prepare a portfolio in the media class to document their progress and topical and language learning.
- **Homework & written assignments:** Students are expected to accomplish the given homework and writing assignments within the announced time frame. Homework assignments can be either collected, or corrected, or presented in class. Students will be graded on the extent and regularity of accomplishment, as well as their correctness.

Exams:

- **Tests:** Throughout the course students will be presented with weekly quizzes to test different language skills in the classroom. These small tests take place every Thursday (except the last Thursday of each course).
- **Final exam:** The final exam is taken at the very end of the course and examines language development in all skills. It takes place on the last Wednesday of the course.

Student Evaluation

Students receive feedback from instructors throughout the course. Evaluation is a reflection of the student's proficiency, participation, engagement and progress. Feedback is based on oral participation in class, results in quizzes, tests, portfolios, mid-term and final exams as well as oral presentations in class and homework completion. Students will meet their teachers individually at least once on a weekly basis during office hours to discuss their performance and progress.

Grading:

Final exam: 40 %

Weekly quizzes: 15 %

Homework: 10 %

Classroom participation: 10 %

Oral presentations: 10 %

Writing, reading and listening assignments: 15 %

Grading Scale

Excellent		Very Good		Good		Pass	
94 – 100%	A	87 – 89%	B+	77 – 79%	C+	67 – 69%	D+
90 – 93%	A-	84 – 86 %	B	74 – 76%	C	64 – 66%	D
		80 – 83%	B-	70-73%	C-		

Anything below 64% is considered a failing grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty or academic misconduct is any type of cheating or lying that occurs in relation to a formal academic exercise.

Cases of academic dishonesty and appropriate punishments are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Incidents of academic dishonesty can lead to failure of a course and/or expulsion from the NMTI program without refund of tuition.

Language Guidelines

The language of instruction and language of communication at Noor Majan Training Institute is Arabic.

Schedule

Classes will take place Sundays through Thursdays. Students will be in classes for 25 contact hours weekly according to the following schedule:

Time	Activity
8:30 – 10:10	Lesson 1: textbook work
10:30 – 11:20	Lesson 2: skills focus
11:30 – 1:10	Lesson 3: media literacy

One contact hour is 50 minutes long.