Classical Arabic I (01:013:242)

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Charles G. Häberl
Office: Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Lucy Stone Hall, Room B-312
Office Hours: By arrangement.
Phone: (732) 445-8444 Ext. 11

This course aims to introduce students to the language of the Qur'an and the classical texts, as well as the general history of the Arabic language before the modern period. It is a full-year course. The first semester of the course will be dedicated to learning the grammar of Qur'anic and Classical Arabic (CA), with special reference to the ways in which it differs from Modern Standard Arabic (MSA); during the second semester, students will finish the grammar of the language and begin reading short texts in the original language. By the end of the first year, students will have achieved basic literacy in Classical Arabic and be able to read Qur'an and other classical works of Arabic literature in the original language. Students will also learn to use the standard dictionaries and grammars as references for further study.

Classical Arabic I will meet thrice weekly. Progress will be assessed by several quizzes, a midterm, and a final examination. Class participation and homework submissions will be counted towards the final grade. Attendance is **mandatory**; any more than three unexplained absences will be considered grounds for failure.

Expectations:

By the end of the first semester, students will be familiar with the construct state (*al-iḍāfa*), singular, dual, and plural nouns and adjectives (including both sound and "broken" plurals) noun-adjective and noun-verb agreement, comparatives and superlatives, and the use of the accusative in cases of absolute negation, specification, and other contexts. They will also be familiarized with the perfect (*al-māḍī*) and imperfect (*al-muḍāriʿ*), active (*al-fāʿil*) and passive (*al-mafʿūl*) participles, and verbal nouns (*al-maṣādir*).

Prerequisites:

013:128 (685:128) Elementary Arabic II or equivalent (determined by placement exam).

Required Texts:

Thackston, W.M. *An Introduction to Koranic and Classical Arabic*. Bethesda, MD: IBEX, 2000.

Recommended Texts:

Wehr, Hans. *A Dictionary of Modern Standard Arabic*, ed. by J. Milton Cowan. 4th Edition. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, 1993.

Wightwick, Jane and Mahmoud Gaafar. *Arabic Verbs and Essentials of Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967.

Texts on Reserve:

Baalbaki, Rohi. *Al-Mawrid: A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary*. 14th Edition. Beirut: Dar el-Elm Li-l-Malayin, 2001.

McAuliffe, Jane D. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, vols. 1-5. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Wehr, Hans. *A Dictionary of Modern Standard Arabic*, ed. by J. Milton Cowan. 3rd Edition. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, 1976.

Wright, William. *A Grammar of the Arabic Language translated from the German of Caspari and edited with numerous additions and corrections by W. Wright*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967.

IMPORTANT ARABIC GRAMMATICAL TERMS

NOUNS, ADJECTIVES, PRONOUNS, & PARTICLES	
حَرفُ الجر	preposition
إسْمٌ / أَسْمَاءٌ	noun, pronouns, and participles
إسمُ الإستِفهام	interrogative pronoun
إسمُ الإشارة	demonstrative pronoun
إسمُ الموصُولة	relative pronouns
اَلصِفة	adjective
الإضَافَة	construct state
المعْرَب ُ	a "declinable" noun or verb (final vowel changes)
المبني	an "indeclinable" noun, verb, or particle (final vowel does not change)
الممنوع مِن الصَّرف	an "indeclinable" noun (lit. forbidden from declining)
اَلتَّصْغِيْ	diminutive form
مجرور	genitive case
فَرْد	singular
جَمْعٌ	plural
جَمْعٌ	"broken" plural
جَمْعٌ سَالِ	"sound" plural
المثَنَّىٰ	dual
إسْمُ	relative pronoun
الضَّمِيْ	personal pronoun
VERBS	
إسْمُ الفاعل	active participle
إسمُ المفعول	passive participle
المبني للمعلوم	active
المبْني لِلْمَجْهُول	passive

المصْدَر	infinitive or verbal noun
فِعْل أمر	imperative
الفِعْلُ الماضِي	perfect
الفِعْلُ المضَارع	imperfect
الفِعْلُ اللازم	intransitive verb
اَلفِعْلُ المتَعَدِي	transitive verb (takes an object)
وزن الفِعل	the "form" of the verb
جذر الفِعل	the "root" of the verb
SYNTAX	
جلَة	nominal sentence
جُلَة فعلِيَة	verbal sentence
الخبر	predicate
المبْتَدَأ	subject (in a nominal sentence)
المفعُول بِهِ	object of the verb (in the accusative)
المفْعُول فيْهِ	adverb of time or place
المفْعُولُ المطْلَق	cognate accusative
الإضَافَة	construct state
المضَاف ُ	the "governed" part of the construct chain
المضَاف إِلَيْهِ ُ	the "governing" part of the construct chain
النِسْبَة	denominal adjective
اَلنَّصْبُ / مَنْصُوب	with nouns, the "accusative"; with verbs, the "subjunctive"
التَّمْيِز	accusative of specification
الحال	accusative of circumstance
أَفْعَلُ التَّفْضِيل	comparative/superlative

PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS

For each lesson, there is an oral component (to be drilled in class) and a written component (to be turned in as an assignment). Additionally, beginning with Lesson 12, there will be short readings from the Qur'an and the corpus of classical Arabic texts.

Fall Semester
Week One (September 1-4)
• First day of classes; Introduction to Classical Arabic **Preparation:** None
• Lesson 1: The Definite Article, Case and State **Preparation:** None.
Week Two (September 7-11)
• Lesson 2: Gender of the Noun, Predication of Existence, Preposition *li-* **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (pp. 7-8) for class, Ex. C (p. 8) to submit.
• Lesson 3: The Construct State **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (p. 13) for class, Ex. C (p. 14) to submit.
• Lesson 3: The Construct State (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (p. 17) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 17-18) to submit.
Week Three (September 14-18)
• Lesson 4: Duals and Plurals **Preparation:** None. NB: CMES Iftar Tonight
• Lesson 4: Duals and Plurals (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (p. 22) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 22-25) to submit.
• Lesson 5: Adjectives and Pronouns **Preparation:** None.
Week Four (September 21-25)
• Lesson 5: Adjectives and Pronouns (cont. **Preparation:** Ex. A (p. 30) for class, Ex. B and C (p. 30-31) to submit
• **Quiz**, Lessons 1-5; Lesson 6: Introduction to the Verb **Preparation:** Prepare for quiz.
• Lesson 6: Introduction to the Verb (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (p. 37) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 37-38) to submit.
Week Five (September 28-October 2)
• Lesson 7: Enclitic Pronouns **Preparation:** None.

- Lesson 7: Enclitic Pronouns (cont.)

Preparation: Ex. A, B, and C (pp. 43-44) for class, Ex. D and E (p. 44) to submit.

- Lesson 8: Demonstratives and *laysa*

Preparation: None.

Week Six (October 5-9)

- Lesson 9: III-Weak Verbs and Relative Clauses

Preparation: Ex. A and B (pp. 49-50) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 50) to submit.

- Lesson 9: III-Weak Verbs and Relative Clauses (cont.)

Preparation: Ex. A (p. 55) for class, Ex. B and C (pp. 55-56) to submit.

- Lesson 10: Geminate Verbs, Passive Participle, and Circumstantial Constructions

Preparation: None.

Week Seven (October 12-16)

- Lesson 10 (cont.)

Preparation: Ex. A (p. 62) for class, Ex. B and C (pp. 62-63) to submit.

- **Quiz,** Lessons 6-10; Lesson 11: Participles (cont.)

Preparation: Prepare for quiz.

- **NO CLASS** (Middle East and Islamic Studies Workshop)

Week Eight (October 19-23)

- Lesson 11: Participles (cont.)

Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 69) for class, Ex. C and D (pp. 69-70) to submit.

- Lesson 12: Verbs: The Imperfect

Reading: *al-ʻAdlu l-marʃ,bu ʻanhu* (Sakai)

Be prepared to read the text and translate it into English.

- Lesson 12: Verbs: The Imperfect (cont.)

Preparation: Ex. A and B (p. 75) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 75-76) to submit.

Reading: *S,ratu l-Naml* (27: 22-30), Thackston, p. 77.

Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.

Week Nine (October 26-30)

- Lesson 13: Five Nouns, Elidable Alif, Categoric Negation

Reading: *Baytun lÁ farša fĊh* (Sakai)

Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.

- Lesson 13 (cont.)

Preparation: Ex. A (p. 82) for class, Ex. B (p. 82) to submit.

- Lesson 14: Imperfect of II=III Verbs

Readings: *In šÁ'a llÁh* (Sakai)

Naʻlu ras,li llÁh (Sakai)

Be prepared to read the texts aloud and translate them into English.

Week Ten (November 2-6)
• Lesson 14: Imperfect of II=III Verbs (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (p. 88) for class, Ex. C and D (pp. 88-89) to submit.
• Lesson 15: Imperfect of II-Weak Verbs, Cardinal Numbers **Readings:** *Fa-hÁÆa mi×lu ÆÁk* (Sakai) *Min ÁdÁbi muÌÁÔabati l-mul,k* (Sakai) Be prepared to read the texts aloud and translate them into English.
• Lesson 15 (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (pp. 93-94) for class, submit Ex. C (p. 94).
Week Eleven (November 9-13)
• **Quiz,** Chapters 11-15. **Reading:** *TaqwĊmu l-kilÁm* (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
• **NO CLASS** (K. David Harrison Lecture)
• Review of Quiz **Reading:** *al-AÌawÁnu wa-l-Îayya* (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
Week Twelve (November 16-20)
• Lesson 16: Imperfect of III-Weak **Reading:** *~und,qu Ummi l-BanĊn* (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
• Lesson 16: Imperfect of III-Weak (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (p. 99) for class, submit Ex. C and D (pp. 99-100). **Reading:** *S,ratu š-Šu'arÁ'* (26: 70-78), Thackston, pp. 100-101. Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
• Lesson 17: Imperfect of I-Weak and Doubly Weak Verbs **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (pp. 104-105) for class.
Week Thirteen (November 23-27)
• Lesson 18: The Subjunctive **Reading:** *al-ËÁdimu l-faÒĊÎ* (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
• **NO CLASS** (Thanksgiving Vacation)
Week Fourteen (November 30-December 4)
• Lesson 18: The Subjunctive (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (pp. 109-110) for class, Ex. C (p. 110) to submit. **Reading:** Selections from al-Dhahabi's *al-AmÒÁru ÆawÁtu l-Á×Ár* (Sakai): Introduction (from *bismi llÁhi r-raÎmÁni r-raÎĊm*), Mecca (*Makkatu*), Jerusalem (*Baytu l-Maqdis*), Damascus (*Dimašq*), and Egypt (*MiÒr*). Ignore the footnotes that take up most of each page.

• Lesson 19: The Jussive **Reading:** *as-Sanatu l-ulÁ mina t-tÁrĊÌi l-islÁmĊ* from al-Dhahabi's *al-'Ibaru fĊ Ìabari man Èamar* (Sakai). Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
• Lesson 19: The Jussive (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (pp. 116) for class, Ex. C and D (p. 116-117) to submit.
Week Fifteen (December 7-11)
• Lesson 20: The Jussive of Defective Verbs **Reading:** *Sanatun i×natayn* (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
• Lesson 20: The Jussive of Defective Verbs (cont.) **Preparation:** Ex. A and B (p. 121) for class, Ex. C and D (pp. 121-122) to submit.
• Review for Exam **Reading:** *Sanatun ×alÁ×* (Sakai) Be prepared to read the text aloud and translate it into English.
Exam Period (December 22)