

Introduction to Arabic Language Acquisition: Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Colloquial I (A005210)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 10.0 **Study time 300 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Arabic, Dutch	Gent	seminar
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Termonia, Maya	LW21	staff member
Van Nieuwenhuyse, Stijn	LW21	staff member
Van Steenbergen, Jo	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	10	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	10	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	10	A
Elective Set Arabic and Islamic Studies	10	A
Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe	10	A

Teaching languages

Arabic, Dutch

Keywords

Language acquisition (Arabic), basic structures (Arabic), MSA (Modern Standard Arabic), Egyptian Arabic

Position of the course

This basic course lays the foundations for the academic study of the Arabic language. Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Arabic are simultaneously introduced. This course prepares the student for the acquisition of basic knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, focussing on the four skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). In the part on Modern Standard Arabic, the student acquires basic skills to understand information from Arabic media. In the part on Egyptian Arabic, the student learns how to have basic conversations on subjects from his or her daily life.

Contents

This course introduces the students to the basic elements of Arabic grammar and vocabulary, focussing on the four skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). This course consists of two components: Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Egyptian Arabic (EA).

The courses MSA concern the acquisition of basic reading, writing and listening skills, within particular contexts.

The courses EA concern the acquisition of basic speaking and listening skills.

Students learn how to present themselves and how to get to know each other (origins, nationality, social status, profession, salary, residency, family). Students also study countries and cities.

Initial competences

learning outcomes secondary education

Final competences

- 1 Students understand well-known Arabic words and basic phrases concerning their direct environment and when their partners speak slowly and clearly.
- 2 Students understand well-known Arabic names, words and brief sentences in simple texts.
- 3 Students use simple Arabic expressions and sentences to express themselves in well-known contexts.
- 4 Students write short and simple notes and messages in Arabic.
- 5 Students know the Arabic alphabet.
- 6 Students know the most frequent Arabic vocabulary.
- 7 Students know the most frequent Arabic grammatical structures.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods

- assignments & exercises on semi-authentic and authentic messages, texts and contexts
- reading, writing, listening, speaking

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: al-Kitaab fii Taallum al-Arabiyya Part 1, Second Edition. Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2004.

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Brustad, K. & al-Batal, M. & al-Tonsi, A.

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Type: Handbook

Name: Kallimni 'Arabi: an Intermediate Course in Spoken Egyptian Arabic. Cairo: American University Cairo Press, 2007.

Indicative price: € 40

Optional: no

Language : Other

Author : S. Louis

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

References

Schulz, E., *A Student Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Course content-related study coaching

Tests during the semester; students are expected to participate actively and consistently, and they are encouraged to ask questions.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written and oral exam (organised separately for each component).

- Written exam = reading, writing MSA

- Oral exam = speaking EA

Participation, skills test (organised separately for each component):

- active and consistent participation during classes

- assignments and tasks (listening MSA & EA / vocabulary & grammar MSA & EA)

Calculation of the examination mark

Modern Standard Arabic 70%

Egyptian Arabic 30%

Both components are subdivided according to skills into end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment (active participation during classes, and tests and assignments).

Students who do not participate in (one of the skills-related parts of) the assessment, or have a mark below 10/20 for one of the skills-related parts (MSA reading, MSA writing, EA speaking, MSA listening, EA listening, MSA vocab & grammar, EA vocab & grammar), automatically fail the entire course. Final marks higher than 10/20 will, in this case, be reduced to the highest mark that does not qualify for automatic upgrade ('deliberation') (7/20).

A pass mark for one of the skills-related parts means that the assessment of that part does not need to be retaken in case of a resit (only!). Students are nevertheless free to decide to retake it.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Attendance during educational activities is required;

2. The examination cannot be rescheduled.

3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy