

Ahlan Wa Sahlan ala al Saaf al Arabi!

Welcome to Arabic class at Macalester College!

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Course Description:

The focus of this class is on communication in Arabic, acquiring the language through

- Listening for understanding
- Speaking using acquired language
- Reading through understanding
- Writing using acquired language

You will also learn about the Arab World and the many **cultures** that it represents; make **connections** to other subjects through learning Arabic; **compare** languages you have learned with Arabic; and use Arabic in the **community** to communicate with speakers of the language.

I have developed my own thematic, cultural and content-based curriculum, which I teach using a **communicative method** that emphasizes acquiring language through listening for understanding and using words and structures you have acquired to speak, read and write in the language. Your **participation** in the class is required in order to acquire the language through frequent and repeated exposure and use of language in context. In this case, **any absence** from class will be detrimental to your learning, since acquiring the language happens **in class**; you cannot make up missed lessons by reading or getting the notes from another student. You will learn by being in the class, listening, participating and contributing to the learning that happens each session. To support your learning, you are encouraged to listen to my podcasts that revisit lessons that have been presented in class at my website: www.qudmous.com Repeated listening to lessons supports language acquisition through increasing your exposure to comprehensible input of words and phrases presented in class.

Course Expectations and Evaluations:

- Be in class **on time**.
- Be **prepared** and ready to **participate** – especially in **listening to understand** and **speaking**
- Maintain a **notebook for Arabic** class in which you take notes from each class. This notebook will be your Arabic language “**textbook**”. **Review** your notes before each class.
- **Complete** all class assignments with **quality** work.

Grades:

Grades are based on three (3) components:

1) Class participation = 30% of your grade.

- **Listen** carefully and engage in understanding
- **Speak** Arabic, using words that you hear the teacher say to respond to and ask questions.
- **Read** and **write** the letters, words, and structures that you have acquired in class.

2) Maintain a notebook for Arabic class = 30% of your grade

- **Take notes** from every lesson in Arabic class.
- The teacher will check students’ notebooks **weekly** and give one-on-one feedback to students on their work in the notebook.

3) Formative quizzes and summative assessments = 40 %

- Show what you know in Arabic through **frequent formative assessments** and **quizzes** at the **end of each unit**.
- The **summative assessments** (final) will be targeted to the communication skills of understanding, speaking, reading and writing in Arabic, based on vocabulary and structures that you have learned in class.
- Dates for quizzes and assessments will be announced in advance in class.

Arabic is a wonderfully rich and useful language to enjoy learning this year and for years to come!