

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 for 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 **communicative methods** that emphasize acquiring language through listening for understanding and using words and structures you have acquired to speak, read and write in the language. Your daily participation is required in order to acquire language through frequent and repeated exposure and use of Arabic in the context of culture or authentic content. In this case, **any absence** from class will be detrimental to your learning, since acquiring the language happens through active participation **in class**; you cannot make up missed lessons by reading or getting the notes from another student. In class, you learn by listening, understanding, responding, and contributing to the learning that happens each session. Repeated listening to lessons and new vocabulary scaffolds language acquisition through increasing your exposure to comprehensible input of words and phrases presented in context. Studies on language acquisition have shown that students need to hear new words and structures in a meaningful context 50-75 times in order to acquire these in their long-term memory. To support your learning, you are required to listen to my podcasts that revisit each lesson presented in class at my website: www.qudmous.com
In addition, students are required to

- Practice a *minimum* of 10 hours of assigned lessons on Rosetta Stone in the lab.
- Read *one* book on a topic of their choice concerning the culture, politics, literature, art, or current events of the Arab world. Write and present to the class a two-page summary of the book by mid-term.

Course Expectations and Evaluations:

- Be in class **on time**.
- Be **prepared** and ready to **participate** – especially by **listening to understand** and **speaking** using acquired vocabulary and structure.
- 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, quizzes, and tests 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** at the **end of each unit** (dates will be announced) and frequent "pop" **quizzes** on vocabulary and structures presented in class 1 – 2 times per week ("pop" means they are un-announced).
- The **summative assessments** (mid-term and final) will target the communication skills of understanding, speaking, reading and writing in Arabic of vocabulary and structures learned in class.
- Dates for summative assessments **will be announced** in advance in class.

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