UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Lingua Araba I

2526-1-E2002R005-E2002R00501

Course title

Arabic Language I

Topics and course structure

This course aims to provide basic knowledge of written and spoken Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). The study of the morpho-syntactic structures of the language will be accompanied by their practical use. The theoretical part proceeds, therefore, in parallel with the proposal of reading texts and conversation cues, aimed at the acquisition of appropriate linguistic-lexical skills and cultural knowledge.
Applications lessons (A-L, M-Z), held by the mother tongue teacher, are complementary to the lessons of the main course and their attendance is an integral part of the course.

Objectives

At the end of the course, with constant and participatory attendance at lectures and the applications related to the main
course, the student will be able to:

- read and understand short texts on geography (Arabic countries and their geographic position, borders and seas; Arabic capitals and main cities), politics (political systems and offices, international meetings and conferences, infographic of an official visit) and culture (short news, poster of a international conference, main feast days in the Arab world): in terms of written comprehension
- fill in a boarding pass and a form with personal data, describe an Arabic country, one’s own country and town, one’s own country political system, the schedule of a journey, feast days: in terms of written

production
- understand the geographical description of an Arabic country and a report from a journey: in terms of oral comprehension
- use basic phraseology to talk about himself/herself, his/her family, professions and jobs, daily activities, his/her country or town, a feast day (using present, future and past tenses): in terms of oral production.

Through the use of written materials, as well as authentic audio and video, it is intended to encourage students' active participation throughout the learning process to develop and reinforce independent judgment and communication skills.

Methodologies

During the course, teaching will be in-presence and predominantly interactive.

Online and offline teaching materials

In addition to the textbook (see further Bibliography), supplementary teaching materials will be uploaded to the E-Learning platforms (Arabic Language I and Application I A-L/M-Z).

Programme and references

Starting from the principles of orthography and phonetics, the student will be introduced to the Arabic alphabet (writing and pronunciation of letters) and to the functioning of the language according to roots and "patterns". The basic foundations of morphology and syntax will be taken into consideration, with a focus on the equational sentence and the verbal sentence.

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE

1. The Alphabet

- short and long vowels;
- consonants and semiconsonants;
- “moon” and “sun” letters (assimilation of the article)

2. The noun and the adjective

- determination (determinative article) and indetermination (lack of articles)
- personal pronouns (isolated), direct and undirect (suffixed)
- the formation of the feminine
- the equational sentence (subject-predicate)
- prepositions: place and time complements, how to express “there is/are” and the possession (to have) - il nome di relazione (an-nisba), ovvero l’aggettivo derivato dal nome
- declension and nunation: triptote and diptote nouns
- the adjective as predicate and as attribute
- the demonstrative as pronoun and as adjective
- the genitive construction (idafa)

- time complements in accusative
- the dual
- the broken plural and the sound plural (masculine and feminine)
- numbers from 1 to 10 and their grammatical rules

3. Particles

- some connectors (wa-, fa-, amma… fa)

4. The verb

- the verbal sentence (the verb at the beginning of the sentence and its agreement with the subject)
- verbal tenses (how to express the present, the future and the past)
- the verb laysa (“not to be”, to negate a equational sentence)
- the verb kana-yakunu (transform the equational sentence into the past and the future tenses)

- The Programme and references for **non-attending students** are the same as those for attending students.

It is also necessary to keep up to date with the contents of the course by consulting the teachers' pages on the e-learning platform, where additional materials, the detailed course program and a model of the written test will also be uploaded.
In case of special requests relating to the exams, please contact the teachers via email in good time, at least 15 days before the exam.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
Textbook
B. Airò, S. Bertonati, Y. Odeh, M.S. Barakat, Lingua araba e società contemporanea, Zanichelli, Bologna, 2023 (reprint with corrections): (Lesson 0-6, 8)

**Book to be read by the oral exam **
G. Mion, La lingua araba, Carocci, Roma, 2016 nuova edizione, chap. 1-3 e 6

Grammmar:
Schulz, Krahl, Reuschel, Standard Arabic. An elementary-intermediate course, Cambride, CUP, 2000

Dictionary:
H. Wehr, and J. Milton Cowan, "A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic", Harrap, London, 1976

Assessment methods

The final exam consists of two parts (both compulsory)

1. A written test, preparatory to the oral one, consisting of a reading comprehension with open-ended questions to assess the ability to understand written texts and exercises on the grammatical structures learned, including sentences to be translated from Arabic to Italian and from Italian to Arabic, in order to verify the knowledge of the grammar and the vocabulary (no dictionary allowed).

2. An oral test consisting of reading and translating one or more texts of the manual in order to verify the ability to read and translate; a question on one of the book chapters indicated in the Bibliography (G. Mion, La lingua araba) and a short conversation and self-presentation in Arabic language, for checking communication skills.

To be admitted to the oral test, one must have passed the written one. A sufficient mark in both tests is required to pass the exam. The final mark is based on the average of the written and oral tests marks and takes into account active participation in the various teaching activities.

The written and the oral must be taken and passed by the last roll call of the academic year, failing which the mark given in the written test will be forfeited.

Online registration on Esse3 for both the written test and the oral test is mandatory.

*Assessment criteria for the written test are based on:
i) the degree of assimilation of program content;
ii) the ability to apply the concepts acquired;
iii) the proper use of the vocabulary and the grammar

*Assessment criteria for the oral test are based on:
i) a correct pronunciation;
ii) the ability to handle oral conversation;
iii) the ability to read passages and texts fluently.

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Office hours

Through appointment by e-mail chiara.schiavi@unimib.it

Programme validity

The program is worth two academic years..

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES