Instructor: Nabil A. Bayakly, Ph.D.
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Textbook: Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds by Brustad, K.; Al-Batal, M.; and Al-Tonsi A.

Course Description:
This is an introductory course to the Arabic Alphabet for non-native speakers of the Arabic language. Students will learn all the forms of the letters and their pronunciation with their corresponding vowel marks. Students will also learn how to read and write simple sentences.

Course Objective:
Students will learn about the various aspects of the Arabic culture. Part of learning a language is to learn the tradition of the people thus I’ll try to form the “Arabic Table” in which students will learn various phrases and the cultural traditions of Arabs.

Grades: Three in-class exams and a final will be given during the semester. Also homework (listening comprehension) will be assigned according to each unit. In class exams will be worth 35% of the total grade, final exam is worth 35% of the total grade, homework grade will be 20% of the total grade and attendance will be worth 10% of the total grade. Letter grades will follow the conventional scale. Make up exams can be administrated with a valid excuse for missing the class exam. No MAKE UP will be given for the FINAL EXAM.

Attendance: I will follow the U of M attendance policy.

Other Instructions: USAGE OF CELL PHONES IS PROHIBITED IN CLASS. Tape recorder is highly encouraged.

A Good Helpful Websites:
www.schoolarabia.net
http://www.omniglot.com/writing/arabic.htm (see other important links)
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/1c/arabic/alphabet/alphabet.html
When you are done with part 1 click on part 2 to learn the different forms of the letters. Also look up “Arabic Tajweed” on You Tube. Lots of fun
CELL PHONE POLICY: TURN IT OFF

Tentative Schedule

The plan (in brief) is to learn the pronunciation of all the Arabic alphabets (1st week) and then we will cover one unit at a time. Each in-class exam will cover three units.

Mon Aug 26: Introduction
Wed Aug 28: The Arabic Alphabets

Mon Sep 2, Labor Day Holiday.
Wed, 09/04 Finish the Alphabets
Lesson 1; 09/19-11.
Lesson 2: 09/16-18
Lesson 3: 09/23-25
Lesson 4: 09/30

Lesson 5: MW; 10/07-09

Oct 12 – 15, Fall Break
Lesson 6: W; 10/16 and M 10/21

Exam 2: Wed, Oct 23. Lessons 4-6
Lesson 7: MW; 10/28-30.
Lesson 8: MW; 11/04-06.
Lesson 10: MWM; 11/18-20 & 25

Nov 27 – Dec 1st, Thanksgiving Holiday
Review for E3 Dec 2nd

Exam 3: Dec 4th
Super Easy Final Exam: W, Dec 11, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, in the class room