香港中文大學 CUHK | 語言學及現代語言系 Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages

Term1, 2026 –2027

Course Code &Title:	ARAB1000 A : ARABIC I	
Language of Instruction: English / Arabic	Units: 3	

Course Description
As the first in a series of language courses, this course invites students without prior knowledge of Arabic to explore the basic features of Modern Standard Arabic. Supported by audio-visual aids, students will receive intensive practice in spoken and written Arabic through interactive class work, homework, and online exercises. They will become familiar with the basic concepts of Arabic grammar and learn how to interact in some simple everyday situations.

Learning Outcomes
After completing this course, students are expected to demonstrate basic Arabic writing, reading, and communication skills including the ability to: - Recognize, write, and correctly connect the letters of the Arabic alphabet. - Read and write basic Arabic words and simple sentences. - Use simple everyday expressions for greetings, introductions, family, work, and places. - Exchange basic personal information in familiar situations. - Understand and use elementary Arabic vocabulary related to everyday life.

Course Syllabus			
Unit / Lesson	Speech Acts	Grammar& Structures	Topic / Culture
Introduction	Greetings, leave-taking, introducing yourself	Arabic writing system, alphabet, writing direction; letter forms, how letters connect	Alhambra Palace
1. Getting Started	Greetings, leave-taking, introducing yourself	Arabic alphabet (Group 1), short vowels, joining letters (Group 1), basic reading and writing	Al-Basus War (Part 1): Introduction to Pre-Islamic Arab History
2. Putting Words together	Introducing yourself; meeting someone for the first time	Arabic alphabet (Group 2), joining letters (Group 2), long vowels, the letter alif, masculine and feminine nouns, simple sentence formation	Al-Basus War (Part 2): Social Values and Traditions of Pre-Islamic Arabia
3. The Family	Introducing family members, talking about where you live and who you live with	Alphabet (Group 3), joining letters, feminine forms, basic question words	The One Thousand and One Nights

4. Jobs	Talking about work and study, introducing occupations	Alphabet (Group 4), plurals, nominative case, vocabulary for occupations	The Camel
5. Describing Things	Asking about names, making polite requests, describing objects and possessions	Alphabet (Group 5), definite and indefinite nouns, possessive endings, attached pronouns	The Pilgrimage (Hajj)
6. Where is it?	Asking and answering about location, describing places	Alphabet (Group 6), emphatic letters, hamza, sun letters, question formation, prepositions of place	Quranic Stories: Prophet Moses

Course Components							
Teaching Mode							
On-site face-to-face interactive classwork: 100%							
Learning Activities							
Interactive classwork[1] (hr)		Extra-curricular activities (hr)		Web-based teaching (hr)		Homework / Self-study (hr)	
in /	out class	in /	out class	in /	out class	in /	out class
3			0.5		1		3
M			O		M		M

M = Mandatory / O = Optional

[1] Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities such as pair work, group work, role-playing and student-teacher interaction.

Assessment Type		
Task nature	Description	Percentage
Participation	- Punctuality, active participation in class activities - Homework (details given in class)	10%
Mid-term Exam	- In-class writing, vocabulary, listening and grammar exercises (details given in class)	30%
Oral Exam	- In-class oral comprehension and oral expression activities (details given in class)	20%
Final Exam	- Writing, vocabulary, reading, listening and grammar exercises (details given in class)	40%

Important Points to Note for Assessments: All in-class assessments (written and oral) are conducted under **closed-book conditions** unless otherwise announced by the course teachers explicitly. Students are not permitted to consult textbooks, workbooks, notes, dictionaries, handouts, or any other reference materials during the assessment. Mobile phones, smart watches, tablets, laptops, AI tools, and all other electronic devices must be switched off and put away before the assessment begins.

Notes:

- Students are required to arrive on time.
- Students are required to attend at least 75% of the class. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum.
- Should a student miss more than 25% of the class, he/she will automatically fail the course.
- If a student is unable to attend, he/she should review the content and homework that are missed and make them up him/her-self.
- For missed tests, make-up tests will not be arranged unless the student can provide an official supporting document, such as a medical certificate.

Assessment Rubrics				
Grade Descriptors:				
A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**
Outstanding performance in all learning outcomes and meeting all specified assessment requirements. Can fully understand and appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a competent way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics appropriately.	Good performance in all learning outcomes Can understand and mostly appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a suitable way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics mostly appropriately.	Satisfactory performance in the majority of learning outcomes. Can partially understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a basic way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics partially appropriately.	Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes. Can rarely understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can hardly ask and answer questions about personal details. Can poorly interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.	Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. Cannot understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Cannot ask and answer questions about personal details. Cannot interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.

Learning Resources
Required Readings and Course Materials
- **Mastering Arabic 1**. Wightwick, Jane and Gaafar, Mahmoud. Bloomsbury Academic, 4th Edition, 2024. ISBN 978-1350367265.
IT Resources
- Online resources: https://www.bloomsburyonlineresources.com/mastering-arabic-series/mastering-arabic-1
Recommended Readings &Library Resources
- **Arabic Verbs & Essentials of Grammar**. Wightwick, Jane and Gaafar, Mahmoud. McGraw-Hill Education, 2nd Edition, 2007. Paperback, 160 pages. ISBN: 978-0071498050. (Hong Kong Public library call number 492.7 WIG).

Course Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Date	No class Days	Assignments	Content
Week 1	Wed, Sep 9			Introduction &Unit 1
Week 2	Wed, Sep 16			
Week 3	Wed, Sep 23			Unit 2
Week 4	Wed, Sep 30			
Week 5	Wed, Oct 7			Unit 3
Week 6	Wed, Oct 14			

Week 7	Wed, Oct 21			Unit 4
Week 8	Wed, Oct 28		**Mid-term Short Test (Unit 1-3)**	
Week 9	Wed, Nov 4			Unit 5
Week 10	Wed, Nov 11			
Week 11	Wed, Nov 18			Unit 6
Week 12	Wed, Nov 25		**Oral Exam (Unit 1-5)**	
Week 13	Wed, Dec 2		**Final Exam (Unit 1-6)**	

Class sections and teachers' contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	No. of weeks	Teacher	Email
ARAB1000 **A**	Wednesday 09 :30 – 12 :15 p.m.	ELB 207	13	Mr. Ammar Saleh	Ammar.saleh100@gmail.com

Note: All course sections comprise **13 teaching weeks (39 contact hours)**. Make-up classes will be arranged whenever necessary to compensate for the shortfall due to public holidays, class suspensions for university events, or other approved situations.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

In the event that a face-to-face class is suspended due to adverse weather conditions, the teacher may, where appropriate, conduct the class online at the scheduled class time. Students will be informed through Blackboard and/or email of any such arrangement. If a student is unable to participate in the online session due to technical difficulties or other unforeseen circumstances, alternative arrangements (e.g. access to lecture recordings, supplementary materials, or make-up arrangements, where applicable) will be provided.

For further information and inquiries, you are welcome to contact:

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
LouisMUNSCH (Course Coordinator)	3943 8617	louis.munsch@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G23, Leung Kau Kui Building (KKB) Office Hours: upon appointment
General Office	3943 9836	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, KKL Building **Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm Friday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:45pm

Details of Course Website
CUHK Blackboard: https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Policy on the Use of AI Tools in Learning

General Principles

The course instructor encourages the responsible use of AI as a supplemental learning tool—for brainstorming, clarifying concepts, or improving drafts—provided students critically engage with the output and cite it where appropriate. However, the use of AI tools is strictly prohibited during tests, quizzes, homework or any graded work meant to evaluate individual understanding.

Permitted Use of AI Tools

Students may use some AI tools in certain learning activities and/or assessments under the following conditions:

1. **Allowed AI Tools**:
    - The use of AI tools is restricted to the following: *ChatGPT*
2. **Permitted Learning Activities/Assessments**:
    - **Permitted:** AI tools may only be used for: *improving language clarity and generation of graphic designs for in class activities and games.*
    - **Prohibited**: AI tools **must not** be used in any assessments (e.g., exams, quizzes, homework and/or presentations) or any work meant to reflect solely the student's independent understanding.
3. **Permitted Collaboration with AI Tools**:
    - AI tools may only be used for: *brainstorming, outlining, checking grammar, generation of graphic designs for in class activities and games.*
    - **Restrictions**: *direct copy-pasting of AI-generated content without critical analysis and citing is strictly not allowed.*

4. **Acknowledgment and Citation**:
    - All AI-generated input must be properly acknowledged and cited (see examples below).
    - Prompts used to generate AI responses must be included as appendices or highlighted in submissions where applicable.
5. **Transparency**:
    - Students must disclose AI contributions by attaching prompts and outputs when required.
    - When in doubt, seek clarification from the course instructor.

In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

Acknowledging support from AI tools Students are required to acknowledge all functional uses of an AI tool and cite it when they paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into their own work any content (whether it is text, image, data, or other format) that was created by it.

i. An example of acknowledgement 'I acknowledge the use of (name of AI tool – e.g. ChatGPT (https://chat.openai.com/) to (specify the support, e.g. plan my essay, generate some ideas for the content, ask for examples of data collection instruments, get the dates of historical events, etc.).
ii. An example of citation OpenAI. (2023). ChatGPT (Mar 20 version). https://chat.openai.com/chat (Students are reminded that due to the rapid developments of AI tools, some citation formats may be updated regularly.)
iii. An example of including texts generated by an AI tool in their work "The following text was generated by an AI tool/language model (ChatGPT):" [Insert the text generated by ChatGPT here.]
iv. An example of including texts generated by an AI tool and the prompts that were used to elicit the text from the AI tool "[The prompt], as generated by an AI language model (ChatGPT):" [Insert the text generated by ChatGPT in response to the prompt.]

Students are reminded to learn and use the AI tools responsibly and ethically and be aware of the limitations.

Improper/unauthorized use of AI tools in learning activities and assessments will constitute acts of academic dishonesty which will be handled in accordance with the University's Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty. Students are reminded to clarify with the course teacher and obtain permission if necessary when in doubt.

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