

## CLASSICAL ARABIC

### REL5360

Classical Arabic is the foundation of Modern Standard Arabic and has served as the core language of communication and religious discourse for Muslims since the seventh century. This course introduces the grammar and vocabulary necessary to read texts in Classical Arabic. The course will teach the alphabet and phonology before laying out the complex syntax and grammar of Qur'anic Arabic. This class is not aimed at those who would like to acquire facility in spoken Modern Standard Arabic. Rather, it is aimed at the student interested in reading Qur'anic and Classical texts in one of the great languages of human civilization.

### OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Understand the alphabet, basic syntax, and verb structure of Classical Arabic
- Develop a vocabulary in Arabic that will be useful in reading Modern Standard Arabic texts
- Be able to approach the Qur'an and other Classical Arabic texts in the original language

### EVALUATION

Weekly quizzes will comprise 25% of the course grade.

Three exams, during the fourth, eighth, and final week of the course will each comprise another 25% of the course grade.

### TEXTBOOK

This course will use Mahmoud Al-Batal, Kristen Brustad, Abbas Al-Tonsi, *Alif Baa* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 1995) for the first three weeks of the course.

Thereafter, it will use Wheeler Thackston, *An Introduction to Koranic and Classical Arabic* (Bethesda, MD: Ibex Publishers, 2000).

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK 1**

Introduction to Arabic and its History

### **WEEK 2**

The letters: *Alif* through *yaa*

### **WEEK 3**

The letters: *hamza* through *daad*

### **WEEK 4**

The letters: *faa* to particles and prepositions

### **WEEK 5**

The Definite article and noun cases

Gender, adjectival agreement and predication of existence

### **WEEK 6**

Construct state, duals, plurals

Adjectival agreement, pronouns, and the active perfect

### **WEEK 7**

Enclitic pronouns, hollow verbs, and the hollow perfect inflection

Weak-lam perfect inflection and relative pronouns and clauses

### **WEEK 8**

Geminate verbs perfect inflection, active participles, passive participles, verbal nouns, and cognate subjects and accusative

Imperfect indicative, noun classes, categoric negation, the elative

## **WEEK 9**

Doubled verbs, cardinal numbers, broken plural patterns

The subjunctive, jussive, and imperative

## **WEEK 10**

Jussive of hollow and weak verbs, imperative of hollow and weak verbs, passive voice, conditional sentences

Passive voice imperfect, energetic mood, preface to increased verb forms, Form VII

## **WEEK 11**

Form VIII, Diminutives, cardinal numbers 11-19

Form II, Form V, *Fa'il* form

## **WEEK 12**

*Fa'ala* form, Arabic personal names, adjectival relative phrases, *ma*, auxiliary verbs

Form IV, Form X

## **WEEK 13**

Forms III, VI, IX, and others

Nouns of place, instrumentality, instance, and manner, and higher numbers

## **WEEK 14**

Review