

**WLAR 101**  
**Introductory Arabic I**  
3 credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

**Description**

**WLAR 101 – Introductory Arabic I:** develops cross-cultural communication and global citizenship through the acquisition of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in Arabic at a novice level. It provides connections to other disciplines and cultures through the study of Arabic and develops an awareness of the cultural contributions and socio-political contexts of diverse, often underrepresented groups throughout the Arabic-speaking world. Topics related to local and global diversity provide the context through which language skills are taught and learned. Communicative competence at a novice level is emphasized, and learning is supported by instructional technologies.

**Co-requisites:** ACLT 053 or ESOL 052 and ESOL 054

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. reproduce basic characters from the Arabic alphabet;
2. recognize short sentences with familiar words and phrases in spoken Arabic
3. use novice-level vocabulary from familiar material to perform uncomplicated basic routine tasks in simple social situations;
4. derive meaning from short, predictable written texts that convey basic information about familiar topics or contexts;
5. write short sentences about familiar, well-practiced topics that accurately use novice-level grammatical structures;
6. communicate orally using simple, high-frequency words and phrases related to predictable topics in Arabic;
7. engage in ongoing, simple conversations in class to obtain basic information, exchange simple greetings, and name and describe concrete objects;
8. identify the major countries where Arabic is spoken, both by dominant and underrepresented groups;
9. compare and contrast the histories, traditions, practices, and perspectives of diverse Arabic-speaking groups throughout the world;
10. explore the experiences of diverse Arabic-speaking groups in relation to speakers of other languages, including English, in historical and contemporary contexts;
11. describe social and ethical issues related to cultural differences in Arabic-speaking contexts;
12. convey knowledge of other disciplines through the study of the Arabic language;
13. demonstrate proficiency in the use of instructional technology for the study of the Arabic language at a novice level and the cultures of Arabic-speaking groups; and
14. locate, evaluate, use and cite research sources when completing written assignments.

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

## **Major Topics**

- I. The Arabic alphabet
- II. Listening
- III. Speaking
- IV. Pronunciation including sound system
- V. Reading
- VI. Vocabulary
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Numbers
  - c. Basic nouns and adjectives
- VII. Grammar
  - a. Present tense
- VIII. Writing and information literacy
- IX. Language as a fundamental category of diversity
  - a. Language variation
  - b. Language and ethnicity
  - c. Arabic as a dominant and minority language
- X. Immigration
  - a. Stereotypes and discrimination faced by immigrants
  - b. The role of immigration in multicultural societies where Arabic is spoken.
- XI. Relationships between language and culture
  - a. Cultural sensitivity, awareness of one's own culture in the process of studying another culture, and cultural relativism.
- XII. Identities, values, traditions and experiences of diverse Arabic-speaking groups in multiple geographic cultural, political, and historical contexts.
  - a. The Arabic-speaking diaspora
  - b. Conquest and colonization in the Arabic-speaking world
- I. XIII. Significant elements of the societies and cultures of Arabic-speaking groups (to include the arts, histories, politics, religions and other achievements)
  - a. Multi-disciplinary contributions

## **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Exams: All faculty members will administer a minimum of four exams, including a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will assess reading, writing, listening, and awareness of topics related to culture and diversity. The final and midterm exams will assess speaking.
- Oral Communication: Oral proficiency in Arabic will be developed daily through communicative activities. Students will be required to develop and deliver at least one oral presentation on a cultural-diversity related topic using multimedia technology in Arabic at a mid-novice level.
- Writing: At least two specific writing assignments related to culture and diversity are required.

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- The approved GREATs project, which must assess at least 5 of the 7 general education outcomes, is worth at least 10% of the total course grade. This writing assignment is a research project that emphasizes culture and diversity as they relate to the experiences of underrepresented groups in Arabic-speaking contexts. It will be written in English, and it must be 3 pages. 2. At least one other writing assignment must be written in Arabic, using vocabulary and grammar at an intermediate level on a topic related to culture and diversity, and must be 1-2 pages. This writing assignment must demonstrate clear communication at a mid-novice level in Arabic.
- Language Learning Software: This course is technologically enhanced by language learning software.

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Arts and Humanities. One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes. This course is approved for General Education Diversity and Global Education programs.

World Language Common Course Outlines are developed with guidance from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines:

<http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012>

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