

Binghamton University – SUNY
Department of Classical & Near Eastern Studies
COURSE SYLLABUS



Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic

مقدمة إلى عربيّة القرآن الكريم

Fall 2015

Scheduled Meeting Times: MW, 5:50-7:10PM, LN 1404

Instructor: Dr. Omid Ghaemmaghami

Office: LT (Library Tower) 1103

Office Hours: Wednesdays 7:30-9PM, or by appointment

E-mail: omid@binghamton.edu

🔗 **Course Description and Objectives**

Perhaps the most venerated book in human history, the Qur'an remains a challenging text for both the Arab and non-Arab reader. This course will focus on the text of the Qur'an in the original Arabic, with attention to vocabulary, tropes and expressions, grammar (syntax and morphology), and rhetoric. Selections from commentaries produced in the classical and modern periods as well as secondary sources written by western scholars will be consulted, but the main text will be the Qur'an itself, in particular the chapters attributed to the Meccan period, as well as sections and verses dealing with major themes of the Qur'an such as the nature of God; the nature of man; eschatology; Jesus and Mary; the status of women; and typological figuration. For each class session, students will prepare selected passages from the Qur'an to be read aloud in class with correct vocalization. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to a wide range of electronic resources available to scholars of the Qur'an, and be taught one of the standard methods for transliterating Arabic. Assessment will be based on active participation, classroom drills, periodic quizzes, an oral presentation, and a final exam.

🔗 **SUNY Learning Outcomes for General Education Requirements**

Students who satisfy the Foreign Language requirement will demonstrate:

1. Basic proficiency in the understanding and use of a foreign language.
2. Knowledge of the distinctive features of cultures(s) associated with the languages they are studying.

📌 Required Course Materials

- (1) Younes, Munther, *The Routledge Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2013. Download the audio material at the following site:
<https://www.routledge.com/products/9780415508940> (under eResources)
- (2) Thackston, Wheeler M., *An Introduction to Koranic and Classical Arabic: An Elementary Grammar of the Language*. Bethesda: IBEX Publishers, 1994.
- (3) J. M. Cowan, Ed. *Hans Wehr: A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (Fourth Edition)*. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, Inc. 1994.
- (4) <http://ejtaal.net/aa>
- (4) Readings, handouts and other materials posted by the instructor on Blackboard.

📌 Requirements

Attendance: Students must attend all classes throughout the semester and arrive to class on time. Class attendance and active participation are required. **Two unexcused absences or tardy arrivals results in one percentage points being deducted from your final grade. An additional two percentage points are then deducted for every subsequent absence.** Thus, for example, if a student receives 90% for her/his final grade but has missed three classes, the final grade will be lowered to 87%. If a student misses a class, it is her/his responsibility to catch up with the class assignments.

Participation: Students must come to each class prepared to participate fully in class activities. Preparation includes completing assigned readings, drills and exercises and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures. Class time should be viewed as a laboratory for students to test and activate the learning and preparation they do at home. Due to the importance of getting ample opportunity to participate and practice, we will spend at least 50% of class time working in pairs. Respect for each other at all times will ensure a positive and fruitful learning experience. Help and encourage your colleagues: each of you can learn with and from everyone else. Work with different people on a regular basis because each student has her/his own particular strengths.

Class participation will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) evidence of preparation prior to class; (2) readiness to respond to the instructors' questions; (3) full and active participation in all assigned tasks; (4) cooperation and respect for classmates in carrying out group activities. **Note: Cell phones, laptop and the like may not be used in class. The participation grade will be adversely affected if students use any such tools.**

Homework: Students should expect to spend approximately two hours each day on homework,

review, and preparation. Homework will be assigned for each class session. The instructor will collect homework a total of approximately 4 times during the course of the semester **at the beginning of class**. The days on which homework is collected will *not* be announced in advance and late submissions will not be accepted. At times, an answer key will be posted on Blackboard for select drills. Students must check their work as part of their daily preparation and review.

On days on which more than one drill has been assigned, each drill should be completed on a separate sheet of paper since the instructor may choose to collect select drill(s). Homework must be completed in pencil and be double-spaced at all times.

Each of the approximately 4 assignments that are collected will be graded on a range of 1 to 3 [3 = completed with few or no errors; 2 = completed with numerous errors; 1 = incomplete or with an inordinate number of errors]. Again, late assignments will not be accepted. It is important to follow up on any special instructor comments on your homework, and it is your responsibility to come to office hours or make an appointment to see the instructor when needed.

Oral Presentation: Each student will be expected to make an oral presentation near the end of the semester in either Arabic or English. Details will be posted on Blackboard on week 10.

The instructor will communicate with students outside of class

via Blackboard and Email.

It is imperative that all students regularly check

their Blackboard and BU Email accounts.

Assessment

- 20% Attendance and class participation
- 15% Homework and written assignments (5% each; 4 assignments will be collected in the course of the semester; lowest grade will be dropped; no late homework will be accepted)
- 30% 3 periodic quizzes (at 10% each of your total grade)
- 10% Oral presentation
- 25% Comprehensive final exam

Note: There is no midterm for this course.

Letter Grading Scale

A	93%-100%	C+	77%-79.99%
A-	90%-92.99%	C	73%-76.99%
B+	87%-89.99%	C-	70%-72.99%
B	83%-86.99%	D	60%-69.99%
B-	80-82.99%	F	59.99% and below

Tentative Weekly Schedule: The following schedule is subject to necessary changes and amendments at the instructor's discretion. **A detailed weekly schedule with pages, drills, class activities and precise homework requirements will be posted on a weekly basis to Blackboard.**

RIQA = The Routledge Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic.

IKCA = An Introduction to Koranic and Classical Arabic: An Elementary Grammar of the Language

Week 1 (beginning August 31): Introduction to the objectives of the course; RIQA-Lesson 1; IKCA-Lessons 1; external handout

Week 2 (beginning September 7): RIQA-Lessons 2-3; IKCA-Lesson 4

No class on Monday (Labor Day)

Friday, September 11: Course add/drop/delete deadline

Week 3 (beginning September 14): See weekly schedule

No class on Monday (Rosh Hashanah)

Week 4 (beginning September 21): See weekly schedule

No class on Wednesday (Yom Kippur)

Week 5 (beginning September 28): See weekly schedule

***** Quiz 1 will be administered on Wednesday September 30 *****

Week 6 (beginning October 5): See weekly schedule

Week 7 (beginning October 12):

No class this week (professor travelling)

Week 8 (beginning October 29): See weekly schedule

Week 9 (beginning October 26): See weekly schedule

***** Quiz 2 will be administered on Wednesday October 28 *****

Note: October 30: Course withdraw (with a “w”)/change grade option deadline

Week 10 (beginning November 2): See weekly schedule

Note: Meet with the instructor to discuss topic for the oral presentation

Week 11 (beginning November 9): See weekly schedule

Week 12 (beginning November 16): See weekly schedule

Week 13 (beginning November 23):

No class on Monday (professor travelling)

No class on Wednesday (Thanksgiving holiday)

Week 14 (beginning November 30): See weekly schedule

***** Quiz 3 will be administered on Wednesday December 2*****

Week 15 (beginning December 7): See weekly schedule

Oral Presentations

Week 16 (beginning December 14): See weekly schedule

Oral Presentations

****Information on the Place and Time of the Final Exam Will Be Provided at a Later Time****

⊠ **Academic Honesty:** As signatories to the Binghamton University Academic Honesty Code, and indeed simply as good scholars and citizens, you are required to uphold academic honesty in all aspects of this course. You may find the Student Academic Honesty Code at the following website: <<http://goo.gl/6pEK8s>>.

⊠ **Disability-related Equal Access Accommodations:** Students wishing to request academic accommodations to insure their equitable access and participation in this course should notify the instructor by the second week of class. Authorizations from Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are generally required. We encourage you to contact SSD at (607) 777-2686 to schedule an appointment with the Director or Learning Disabilities Specialist. Their website (www.binghamton.edu/ssd) includes information regarding their Disability Documentation Guidelines. The office is located in UU – 119.

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