

**Language: Arabic**

**From Scratch to the Qur'an.** The course is a 10 ECTS crash course in classical Arabic. It is a demanding language to learn in just one semester, so please be prepared to work at it. The reward is getting to know the basics of Arabic grammar, enough to make sense of difficult texts like the Qur'an. Please make sure not to fall behind. Work through the exercises thoroughly, and only proceed when you grasp an exercise and remember the grammar.

The course is taught in the 'flipped classroom' style, which means that all the basics of the grammar are taught by video, and therefore classroom time can be used for asking questions etc. rather than spending time on grammar lectures. You will have to watch the grammar lessons several times, and pause the video frequently as you digest the compact information given there.

**Weekly conference call**

We will meet on Skype on Tuesdays 14:15-15:45 CET *except for the first week, where there will be no call* (because I will be travelling that week). Students present in Copenhagen are welcome to come to my office for the classes.

**Time period**

Teaching: Week 5-18. There will be a break in week 13 (Easter).

**Responsible teacher and institution**

Martin Ehrensvärd, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen

**Registration:**

No later than January 15: E-mail both to me (meh@teol.ku.dk) and to your local coordinator/tutor.

**Week by week**

Week of 1 February. Start the course by reading the Wikipedia entry on Arabic language:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language). Then watch the first five video lessons on

<http://ehrensvard.dk/?Arabic>, and complete the accompanying exercises (i.e. exercises 1-3).

Week of 8 February. This week's work consists of watching lessons 6-10 and completing exercises 4-8.

Week of 15 February. Watch lessons 11-13 and complete exercises 8-11

Week of 22 February. Watch lessons 14-16 and complete exercises 12-14

Week of 1 March. Watch lessons 18-19 and complete exercises 16-17

Week of 8 March. Watch lessons 20-21 and complete exercises 18-19

Week of 15 March. Compact seminar; face-to-face Arabic class in Copenhagen. Repetition.

Week of 22 March. Watch lessons 22 and complete exercise 20

Week of 29 March. Easter break

Week of 5 April. Watch lesson 23 and read, translate and analyze Sura 12, verse 1-4; Sura 12 is the so-called Joseph sura. Our syllabus consists of the first half of this sura, which is six and a half pages in Brünnow-Fischer's Chrestomathy (full publisher details below). A great thing about it is that it includes a dictionary of just the words used in the book.

Week of 12 April. Watch lesson 23 again and read, translate, and analyze Sura 12, verse 5-11

Week of 19 April. Read, translate and analyze Sura 12, verse 12-20

Week of 26 April. Read, translate and analyze Sura 12, verse 21-25

Week of 3 May. Read, translate and analyze Sura 12, verse 26-32

**Reading Arabic aloud**

You will receive mp3 files of Martin Ehrensvärd reading all of the exercises in Arabic. Please refer to these as you practice your own reading.

## **Literature**

### **TEXTBOOK**

The textbook is a work in progress and is found on <http://ehrensvar.dk/?Arabic> in the form of a bunch of exercises organized by lesson number; there is also a pdf where all of the small pdf files are combined in one large file.

### **GRAMMAR**

Wolfdietrich Fischer, 'A Grammar of Classical Arabic' (Yale University Press 2002; note that the original German version can be used as well).

### **CHRESTOMATHY**

Rudolf-Ernst Brünnow and August Fischer, 'Chrestomathy of Classical Arabic Prose Literature' (Harrasowitz 2008 - Older German versions can be used as well).

## **Syllabus and exam**

The syllabus for the exam is the first half of Sure 12, The Joseph Sure, in the Qur'an, pp 132-138 in the above-mentioned Chrestomathy (i.e. Rudolf-Ernst Brünnow and August Fischer, Chrestomathy of Classical Arabic Prose Literature). This book includes vocabulary, so you don't absolutely need a dictionary. However, The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic is a fantastic dictionary, even for classical texts (due to the similarity of the classical and modern written language). Note that the Chrestomathy uses Arabic numerals for the page numbers. You can find the numerals in §25 in Fischer's grammar.

As for the Qur'an, there is a very useful, albeit not always exact word-by-word translation and grammatical analysis found at <http://corpus.quran.com/wordbyword.jsp> It gives you all the relevant info including pronunciation, literal translation, meaning, syntax, morphology.

## **Examination**

For the exam you will be asked to transliterate, translate and linguistically comment upon a text from the syllabus. The text will be a few verses long. You will receive the text on May 14 at noon and should hand in your paper by email to me on before May 15 at noon.