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 zoom class
We will meet on Zoom on Wednesdays from 15:15-16:45 CET. It is always the same Zoom room, https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/5275448182. There's no password. Students present in Copenhagen are welcome to come to my office for the classes. I will audio record the classes and share them on Canvas. We will use Copenhagen's Canvas, called Absalon.

Time period
Teaching: Week 6-18, thus the first class will be on 4. February and the last class will be on 29. April. I'm unable to teach on 25. March. There will be a break for Easter, so there will be no classes on 1. April. Please note further that I will be on holiday in the week of 18. February. I will teach anyway, but there will be no option to come to my office for IRL teaching.

Compact seminar
During week 11, there will be a compact seminar in Copenhagen. Arabic class that week will be IRL on Monday, 9. March, 11:00-12:30. So, no Arabic class on Wednesday 11. March.

Responsible teacher and institution
Martin Ehrensvärd, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen

Week by week
4. February. Your homework for this class is to read the Wikipedia entry on Arabic language: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language. Then watch the first five video lessons on http://ehrensvard.dk/?Arabic, or on this playlist https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzuHy4hHnO1HCKQG2E605e32yAE5bKyuY and complete the accompanying exercises (i.e. exercises 1-3).
11. February. For this class, please watch lessons 6-10 and complete exercises 4-8.
18. February. Watch lessons 11-13 and complete exercises 9-11. Please note, I'm on holiday this week. I will teach via Zoom at our regular Wednesday time but will not be present in my office in Copenhagen.
25. February. Watch lessons 14-16 and complete exercises 12-14.
4. March. Watch lessons 17-19 and complete exercises 15-17.
9. March we have our compact seminar with face-to-face Hebrew class in Copenhagen (timing 11:00-12:30) in room 8B-0-54. Repetition of grammar, please look over the exercises we have completed so far. The usual Zoom room will be open for students not attending the compact seminar or not present in Copenhagen.
18. March. Watch lessons 20-22 and complete exercise 18-20.
8. 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.
15. April. Watch lesson 23 again and read, translate, and analyze sura 12, verse 5-11.
22. April. Read, translate and analyze sura 12, verse 12-20.
29. April. Read, translate and analyze sura 12, verse 21-25.

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 30. April at noon CET and should hand in your paper in our digital exam system before 1. May at noon CET.

Reading Arabic aloud. .mp3 files of Martin Ehrensvärd reading all of the exercises in Arabic are found in Canvas (=Absalon). Please refer to these as you practice your own reading.

Literature
TEXTBOOK
The textbook is a work in progress (without much progress lately) and is found on http://ehrensvard.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 Sura 12, The Joseph Sura, 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. Be careful with it, as the grammatical analysis relatively often is incorrect.

NB: Note that you must receive and hand in the exam question in the digital system. Make sure that you have access and that you check our UCPH email daily (or set up a forward to your usual email address).