



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA



CENTRO DE
LENGUAS
MODERNAS

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSE

LANGUAGE

**INTRODUCTION TO ARABIC: LANGUAGE AND
EPIGRAPHY IN THE ALHAMBRA**



INTRODUCTION TO ARABIC: LANGUAGE AND EPIGRAPHY IN THE ALHAMBRA

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This course offers a practical introduction to the Arabic language through its use in real contexts, taking the epigraphic and artistic heritage of the Alhambra as its object of study. The course focuses on the development of basic linguistic competencies—reading, writing, recognition, and analysis—through direct contact with authentic texts.

Far from being an objective in itself, the Alhambra is used as a material framework for the observation and analysis of the Arabic language in use, allowing students to approach structures, vocabulary, and formulas characteristic of Classical Arabic within specific historical contexts.

The course is designed for students with no prior knowledge and prioritizes active language learning through practice, meaningful repetition, and guided interpretation of short inscriptions. Special attention is given to recognition of the alphabet, acquisition of contextualized vocabulary, identification of morphological patterns, and comprehension of simple structures found in the texts.

Likewise, the course promotes an integrated understanding of language and context, viewing texts as situated linguistic manifestations without displacing the primary focus of learning: the development of basic competencies in the Arabic language.

CONTENTS

Block 1: Graphic and Phonetic System

- The Arabic alphabet: isolated and connected forms
- Sound–script correspondence
- Basic reading and writing practice
- Introduction to vocalization

Block 2: Fundamental Vocabulary

- Basic high-frequency vocabulary
- Recurring vocabulary in inscriptions (blessings, power, eternity, beauty)
- Fixed formulas and ritual expressions
- Strategies for acquiring contextualized vocabulary

Block 3: Basic Morphology

- Root and pattern in Arabic
- Gender and number
- Personal and possessive pronouns
- Identification of common nominal forms



Block 4: Elementary Syntax

- The nominal sentence
- Simple verbless structures
- Common constructions in short texts
- Word order

Block 5: Language in Use (Applied Corpus)

- Guided reading of short inscriptions from the Alhambra
 - Identification of linguistic structures in context
 - Assisted translation of simple texts
 - Recognition of repetitive patterns in epigraphy
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METHODOLOGY

- Inductive learning, starting from real examples to infer linguistic rules
 - Progressive reading, from letters and words to short structures
 - Intensive writing practice, including basic calligraphy
 - Guided linguistic analysis of inscriptions as a learning corpus
 - Assisted translation with teacher support and didactic tools
 - Morphological and syntactic identification exercises
 - Meaningful repetition and memorization of frequent structures
 - Use of authentic visual materials as the basis for learning
 - Visits (in person or virtual) to the Alhambra as a space for linguistic observation
 - Visit to the Madraza of Granada, focused on the direct analysis of texts and linguistic structures in context
 - Collaborative work aimed at solving specific linguistic tasks
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ASSESSMENT

Assessment focuses on the acquisition of basic linguistic competencies:

- Active participation and attendance: 10%
- Practical language exercises (reading, writing, analysis): 40%
- Midterm tests (recognition of structures, vocabulary, and basic translation): 20%
- Final project: 30%
 - Linguistic analysis of a short inscription (identification of vocabulary, structure, and morphological elements)

Assessment will be continuous and oriented toward progress in language proficiency.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic Bibliography

- Cortés, Julio. *Basic Arabic Grammar*
- Haywood, J. A. & Nahmad, H. M. *A New Arabic Grammar of the Written Language*
- Wright, W. *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*

Methods and Resources for Learning Arabic

- Atakallum – digital platform for progressive Arabic learning with interactive materials
- *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* – introductory method focused on the alphabet and phonetics
- *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya* – international reference work for learning Arabic

Epigraphy and Language in Context

- Puerta Vilchez, José Miguel. *Reading the Alhambra*
- Fernández Puertas, Antonio. *The Alhambra*
- D'Ottone Rambach, Arianna. *Arabic Epigraphy in the Islamic World*
- Blair, Sheila S. *Islamic Calligraphy*

Audiovisual and Digital Resources

- YouTube – channels specialized in Arabic learning (alphabet, pronunciation, vocabulary)
- Memrise – vocabulary practice through spaced repetition
- Anki – creation of personalized flashcards for epigraphic vocabulary
- Quizlet – interactive vocabulary and recognition activities
- Documentary videos on the Alhambra and its epigraphy (e.g., Andalusian heritage documentary series)
- Audiovisual resources on Arabic calligraphy (practical writing demonstrations)

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