**General Description of the Course**

The courses at the Language Center are structured according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The Arabic course is designed for students with no previous background in this language. The goal is for learners to achieve a high level of functional capabilities in the language. The course is conducted in the target language from the first lesson, in order to develop learners’ ability to comprehend, produce and interact in the target language, both orally and in writing. The learning process is gradual, with an emphasis on creating linguistic and cultural awareness and intercultural mediation skills in academic and social contexts. It provides learners with effective learning strategies, while giving them responsibility and autonomy. In accordance with the European standards, all learning outcomes are defined in terms what learners ‘can do’ using the language.

**Course Objectives**

* Developing a diverse range of capabilities for functioning in the target language
* Fostering cultural familiarity with the language and its speakers
* Creating an enjoyable and supportive learning environment
* Building learners’ confidence to function in the target language
* Gradually building comprehensive academic skills in the target language
* Developing tools for self-learning, through awareness of learning processes
* Making optimal use of time during class and in independent work outside the classroom

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

* Understand texts on familiar, everyday topics, without using a dictionary.
* Identify concrete details in written and oral material (i.e., be able to navigate a website, and understand written or recorded announcements and messages).
* Introduce themselves, providing details, in writing and orally.
* Have a conversation about common everyday topics.
* Correspond in simple language.
* Recognize basic cultural nuances and conduct themselves in various situations in a manner that is appropriate to the context.
* Independently and effectively manage the learning processes in the course.
* Continue to develop all the various language skills outside the classroom, using the tools they acquired.
* Successfully integrate into the next level course at the Hebrew University or a university abroad.

The Teaching Method in the Course:

The teacher guides an active and intensive learning process, conducted exclusively in the target language. The emphasis is on actually using the language. Students must be proactive in applying what they have learned to utilize information, and participate in written and verbal discourse and intercultural mediation processes. Students are responsible for their own learning and for using the target language both in the classroom and in the outside world. Ongoing assessment during the course is based on what students ‘can do’ in terms of written and oral communication skills, and their performance on written and oral exams.