

TURK 1501 – BEGINNING TURKISH I FALL 2009

Course Hours: MoWeFr 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Course Room: FH 478

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Course Description

Beginning Turkish is an introductory course and assumes no prior knowledge of the Turkish language. The course aims at the balanced development of students' proficiency in four communicative skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing – via linguistic interaction with printed and audio-visual materials. Class sessions will emphasize communication and comprehension skills, while introducing basic grammatical structures of the language, vocabulary fields, and pronunciation in context. Throughout the course, students will be presented with opportunities to increase their knowledge of Turkish culture.

Course Goals/Objectives

- Upon successful completion of Beginning Turkish, students will be able to
- ❖ identify and produce the basic elements of Turkish grammar, including the phonological structure of the language, basic sentence patterns, and various verb tenses.
 - ❖ write short compositions, dialogs, simple letters, and other creative pieces of approximately 50-70 words.
 - ❖ understand words, phrases, and multiple sentence length utterances which use limited vocabulary and pertain to issues of daily life, personal relationships, and concrete physical surroundings and experiences.
 - ❖ read and understand short texts of the same nature.
 - ❖ appropriately handle everyday social encounters, such as greetings, courtesy formulae, etc.; ask and answer simple questions; and deal with uncomplicated communication tasks related to touristic survival abroad.
 - ❖ conduct simple, 3-4 minute conversations on a variety of day-to-day topics.
 - ❖ gain awareness and appreciation of and insight into the Turkish culture.

Course Policies

- ❖ Students are expected to come to class on time and bring all necessary class materials.
- ❖ Students should come to class prepared, ie. having read the relevant textbook pages, memorized new vocabulary, and completed the daily homework. Please note that your timely completion of regular, ongoing assignments will speed your mastery of Turkish. Late submission of most assignments will NOT be accepted.
- ❖ No cell phones, pagers, or laptops may be used in class.
- ❖ Attendance is required and will be taken each class. If you must miss a class session, please notify me in advance (by e-mail or phone). (In case of medical or other emergencies, be prepared to provide appropriate documentation, such as a written statement from your doctor.) Class participation is vital, as a portion of your final grade will be based on your participation in classroom activities.

- ❖ Should your absences exceed 5 class hours, 1.0 point will be subtracted from your final grade for each additional missed hour of class.
- ❖ You, the student, are responsible for getting notes, homework assignments, and announcements from a classmate for the session you missed. You should notify me to obtain any handouts you missed receiving.
- ❖ If you will be absent in order to observe any religious holy days during the semester, you must inform me per email within the first two weeks of class. These absences will be excused.
- ❖ In general, missing a quiz or exam results in a score of zero, and you will not be allowed to make up the work. Exceptions may be made in the case of extreme circumstances, such as a documented, serious illness. In the event that you cannot be present for an exam, and you believe your circumstances warrant special consideration, you should speak to me in advance, and you should take the exam before (and not after) the rest of the class. Also, it is University of Houston policy that final exams are not subject to rescheduling, so please do not make plans to leave the Houston area until after the final exam time.
- ❖ Office Hours and Contacting Your Instructor: Please feel free to visit me during office hours. If you aren't able to see me during my office hours, call me or send me an e-mail to arrange another meeting time.
- ❖ Class Mail Distribution List: I may send you some handouts, announcements, summaries, and project/homework descriptions via a class e-mail-list. Please do check your e-mail on a daily basis and read the e-mails distributed by me immediately.

Course Requirements

- ❖ The dates of all quizzes and exams are indicated on the attached course calendar.
- ❖ There will be a total of five 20-minute quizzes. Four of these quizzes will count; the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
- ❖ The midterm exams and final exam will contain listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary sections. You will receive more detailed information about the structure and content of these exams 1-2 weeks prior to each exam.
- ❖ In addition to participating regularly in class activities, it is important that you complete all your homework on time. Homework may consist of (but will not be limited to) exercises/assignments from the textbook/handouts and oral presentations.

Grading Policy

Final	25%
Two Midterms	25%
4 Quizzes	20%
Participation and personal effort	15%
Homework	15%

- ❖ The following scale will be used to determine your course letter grade:

A	92-100	C	72-77
AB	88-91	D	62-71
B	82-87	F	0-61
BC	78-81		

Course Materials

Required Textbook/CD: Kurtuluş Öztopcu's *A Complete Course for Beginners*, Santa Monica-Istanbul, 2009.

* Please buy this version (not the older version) of the book as soon as possible. Note that only volume I of this set will be used in Fall Semester 2009. The second volume will be used next semester, in TURK 1502.

* In the third week of the course, Raindrop Turkish House (in Southwest Houston) will fully reimburse students who present documentation of their enrollment in TURK 1501 and a receipt for the required textbook.

Course Calendar

1st week: August 24-28, 2009

Introductions and introduction to the course.

Unit I of *Elementary Turkish*

2nd week: August 31-September 4, 2009

Unit 2 of *Elementary Turkish*

Quiz 1

3rd week: September 9-11, 2009 (*No class on September 7 due to Labor Day holiday)

Unit 3 of *Elementary Turkish*

Culture of Turkey I

4th week: September 14-18, 2009

Unit 4 of *Elementary Turkish*

Quiz 2

5th week: September 21-25, 2009

Unit 5 of *Elementary Turkish* (Review of Units 1-4)

Culture of Turkey II

6th week: September 28-October 2, 2009

1st Mid-Term Exam

Unit 5 of *Elementary Turkish*

7th week: October 5-9, 2009

Unit 6 of *Elementary Turkish*

Culture of Turkey III

8th week: October 12-16, 2009

Unit 7 of *Elementary Turkish*

Quiz 3

9th week: October 19-23, 2009

Unit 8 of *Elementary Turkish*

Culture of Turkey IV

10th week: October 26-30, 2009

Unit 9 of *Elementary Turkish*

Quiz 4

11th week: November 2-6, 2009

Unit 10 of *Elementary Turkish* (Review of Units 6-9)

2nd Midterm Exam

Culture of Turkey V

12th week: November 9-13, 2009

Units 11 & 12 of *Elementary Turkish*

13th week: November 16-20, 2009

Units 12 & 13 of *Elementary Turkish*

Quiz 5

14th week: November 23, 2009 (No class on November 25 and 27 due to Thanksgiving holiday)

Unit 13 of *Elementary Turkish*

15th week: November 30-December 4, 2009

Unit 14 of *Elementary Turkish*

REVIEW

FINAL EXAM

Finally, consider participating in the **TURK 1501 Partner Project, an extra credit activity that could add as much as 5 points to your final grade!**

How does it work? During the first two weeks of class, you agree to become the conversation partner of a native Turkish student at U.H. Then, you stay in close contact with your partner, meeting him/her at least once a week for a half-hour. If meeting in person is difficult, you may chat with your partner on MSN, write e-mail and/or talk to him/her on the phone. But, if you want to receive full points (ie. an additional 5 points added to your final grade), you should meet with your partner **AT LEAST SEVEN TIMES** & e-mail/phone /chat on MSN **AT LEAST TWO TIMES** during the semester. On the last day of class, or before the final exam, you will turn in a log of your meeting times and the main subjects of your conversation. The log should be signed by your conversation partner as well.

Of course, by participating in this project, you will gain more than points. Ideally, you will improve your speaking & listening skills, pronunciation, vocabulary, and cultural knowledge in a lively, enjoyable way. Who know? Perhaps you will even establish a friendship that will last forever!