

University of Pennsylvania
School of Art and Sciences
Middle Eastern Languages and Civilizations
TURK 0100-5100: Elementary Turkish I
Course Syllabus
Fall 2024

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Course Period: August 27- December 19, 2024

Days and Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-12:29 pm

Office hours: Flexible by appointment

Course Materials

Since the mindset of the instructors do not rely on a single book, Elementary Turkish I course materials are based on the instructors' selection from various sources and modified for the group of learners according to their needs and readiness. Also, materials developed by the instructors will be used. All course materials are available on Canvas site. If needed, extra materials might be delivered on paper as well.

As an option for the learners, who need a Turkish grammar book, *Complete Turkish by David Pollard and Asuman Çelen Pollard* is advised as a reference book.

As a coursebook and workbook set, A coursebook named *Istanbul A1* is suggested as an option.

Elementary Turkish: a complete course for beginners / Kurtuluş Öztopçu (available at [VanPelt Library](#))

Elementary Turkish / by Lewis Thomas ; revised and edited by Norman Itzkowitz (available at [Penn Museum Library](#))

Other Online Educational Tools and Websites

Dictionaries:

<https://tureng.com/en/turkish-english>

<https://www.zargan.com>

Flashcards

<https://quizlet.com/stunal>

Websites to improve your Turkish furthermore

<https://yabancilaricinturkce.com><https://www.languagereactor.com>

<https://readlang.com>

<https://turkishteatime.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/@EasyTurkish>

Description

Welcome to Elementary Turkish I! This course is offered in the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Civilizations (MELC) and designed for the beginners of Turkish language. The course aims to deliver systematic presentation of a practical use of modern Turkish language by stressing extensive practice in conversation, listening, reading, and writing. Classroom language is mainly Turkish, and English is used only for descriptions in unique structures. By the end of the course, the learners will be able to understand and respond appropriately to simple and daily questions and ready to continue to Elementary Turkish II. Also, the learners will be able to read and react to a variety of simple Turkish texts with little difficulty or no difficulty and carry on some basic everyday conversations and will be able to write simple emails and messages. Turkish culture is embraced as a part of learning Turkish culture so that the learners will be able experience the culture with the help of native instructors and various Turkish videos, music, and series provided throughout the semester.

Grading

Attendance and active participation	10%
Synchronous and Asynchronous activities with language partner	5%
Homework	5%
Weekly assignments	15%
Mid-term Checkpoint Exam	15%
Practice Interviews	20%
Final Interactive Presentation or Project	30%

At the end of the semester, the criteria above will be calculated, and your final course grade is determined. The numerical values of letter grades are:

98-100 A+	82 – 87.9 B	70 – 71.9 C-
92 – 97.9 A	80 – 81.9 B-	60 – 69.9 D
90 – 91.9 A-	78 – 79.9 C+	59 & below F
88 – 89.9 B+	72 – 77.9 C	

Course content		
Unit	Objectives	Cultural Highlight

Unit 1: Tanışma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabet • Greetings • Meeting and simple conversation • Highlights of Turkish language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers • Asking simple questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalities 	Turkish cuisine
Unit 2: Havalar nasıl?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking questions about daily events • Understanding simple texts in emails • Talking about actions happening at the time of the conversation • Biographies of family members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving orders 	Biographies of important people in Turkish history
Unit 3: Neler var?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our possessions and talking about our favorite objects, pets, friends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading simple poems • Writing simple sentences about celebrations and get well wishes • Describing weather conditions 	Famous poets in Turkey
Unit 4: Ailemiz ve şehrimiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking about our family • Comparing Turkish cities • Using adjectives and idioms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobbies and habits • Asking permission 	National and religious holidays in Turkey

Unit 5: Tatildeyiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about hobbies and habits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologizing Writing a simple complaint letter Talking about daily routines and activities Writing about your most favorite vacation 	Touristic places in Turkey
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Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students, who have attended classes regularly and successfully completed all assignments, quizzes and exams with a passing grade should have the following communicative skills:

- Greetings and farewells, thanking and apologizing, asking about health and well-being.
- Introducing oneself and others, asking for and giving personal information like hometown, occupation, age, field of study, exchanging address and phone numbers.
- Asking for directions, expressing, and describing location in simple terms.
- Ordering food, making polite requests, and orders, grocery shopping.
- Describing and talking about family, people, and weather.
- Expressing and asking about likes and dislikes, talking about leisure time activities.
- Talking about time related activities, understanding schedules and timetables.
- Providing biographical information and talking about past events.
- Telling future plans.
- Making travel arrangements.

Attendance and Participation

Learning a language requires motivation and practice. Your instructors are always ready for making learning Turkish language less stressful and fun. However, attendance is highly crucial for learners to reach their full potential by participating in class activities.

It is expected to come to every class on time and be prepared to dive into Turkish language. You will have a chance to develop and practice with your peers and instructors by individual and group activities. We encourage you to make mistakes since we see them as an opportunity to improve your Turkish skills. You will find a safe space, where everyone feels okay to make mistakes.

Every month your attendance and participation performance will be evaluated by using this scale:

5	present and on time, prepared for class, actively and productively participates in all class activities, stays on task and uses Turkish almost exclusively, volunteers' constructive comments, listens to and
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	respects the ideas and comments of others, is engaged and participatory but also mindful and careful not to dominate talking time.
4	present and generally prepared for class, actively and productively participates in most class activities, makes a conscious effort to stay on task and use Turkish, volunteers' constructive comments, listens to and respects the ideas and comments of others, is engaged and participatory but also mindful and careful not to dominate talking time.
3	present, but inconsistently prepared, participates in some class activities, sometimes stays on task and uses Turkish, sometimes volunteers constructive comments, listens to and respects the ideas and comments of others.
2	present, but minimally prepared, rarely able to actively and productively participate in class activities, rarely stays on task and uses Turkish, rarely volunteers or contributes to group activities, rarely listens to others.
1	present, but not prepared for class, does not participate, does not stay on task and/or in Turkish, does not listen to others.
0	absent

It is understandable that a learner might be rarely late for a class because of unavoidably reasons. Arriving late is accepted maximum two times, only if the learner will let the instructors know in advance with the reason.

Absence Policy

Everyone might be sick or undelayable event might come out occasionally, so that excused absences are expected only if the absence situation is rare and catch-up session is set with the instructor in exchange of the absence.

If a learner misses 10 or more classes, for any reason, **s/he/they will automatically receive a failing grade in the course.** Following Penn policy, if a student misses or anticipates missing 5 or more consecutive days of classes, s/he/they need to contact her/his/their school's advising office as soon as possible.

It is required to let the instructor know by email in advance if you are going to miss the class. It is important keep in communication about what is going on.

Synchronous and Asynchronous Activities with Language Partner

The learners will have assignments that need to be completed with interacting with your peer (the person can change for every assignment). You will have options to study on these assignments online, in person, or asynchronously.

Homework

The learners will be assigned homework for practice what they learn in class time. The homework will be given mostly on Canvas and other digital tools approved by the instructors and the university. On paper homework is also assigned for extra study.

Weekly Assignments

The learners need to complete assignment of the week. The assignments are designed as not time consuming, but to review the subjects of the week quickly.

Mid-term Checkpoint Exam

The learners take an exam assessing four main skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing) on what they learn until that period.

Practice Interviews

The instructors will arrange pop-up interviews during classroom time and one online interview at the end of the semester. The learners are expected to be talk about what they learned.

Final Interactive Presentation

The learners will prepare a PowerPoint presentation, about your hobbies and future plans. (The topic and structure of the presentation will be determined by the students and approval of the instructor).

The presentations will be held in classroom. During the presentations, the instructors and the peers will ask several questions about it.

An option to prepare a project might also be provided upon request.

Late or Missing Homework/Assignment Policy

The learners are expected to submit their homework/assignment on time. Usually, the learners will have one week for the homework that might take more time and there will be more than enough time to complete them. Therefore, late submissions are not allowed.

Homework/Assignment Make-up Policy

Requests to reschedule a homework/assignment will only be considered if the request is made at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled deadline for homework/assignment. The reasons behind it will be considered.

Extra-curricular Activities and Language Support

By taking Elementary Turkish II, you naturally accepted as a member of Turkish language learners' community at Penn. It is not mandatory, but the learners are expected to join cultural events and gathering such as Turkish tea parties or Turkish dinners. It is very beneficial for you to meet other Turkish learners or speakers and expand your

network. Also, there is a free service provided through the [Language Direct program](#), free peer tutoring program at Penn Language Center. If you are interested, you may find more information about this program using the link above.

Classroom Rules

The rules below are the standards set by the administration of the university. We are aware of the fact that the rules are already followed by the students. The rules below are listed as a reminder.

1. All students are expected to abide by the rules of [the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity](#) and [Code of Student Conduct](#). Any violations of the Codes, including plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own) or dishonest practices during examinations will be reported to the university officials.
2. University of Pennsylvania provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of [Student Disabilities Services](#) (SDS). Please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible in order to discuss your accommodations and your needs. If you have not yet contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215-573-9235. The office is located in the [Weingarten Learning Resources Center](#) at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. All services are confidential.
3. In this course, you will be asked to express personal opinions and to talk and write about yourself, your family, and friends. If you prefer, you do not need to discuss or reveal any personal information; instead, you may provide fictitious information. When you are being creative, you are expected to keep in mind the general purpose of the activity by using relevant vocabulary and expressions.
4. Your instructor may ask that you change your seat to work in pairs or small groups. You should be prepared to change your seat at your instructor's request.
5. The use of profanity in the classroom (in any language) will not be tolerated.