

Utah State University
ARBC 2010: Intermediate Arabic
Syllabus-Fall 2017



Instructor: Marwan Ahmed
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Office hours: By appointment
Old Main 341

Merrill-Cazier Library – Room 405
Time: 08:30 am – 09:20 am - MWF

I. Course goals and Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is to develop students' ability to communicate in Modern Standard Arabic, read and write in the beautiful Arabic script, listen and understand basic conversations, learn basic grammatical rules, and make connections with Arabic culture.

At the end of the course, students should be able to perform the following tasks:

- Speak about yourself, others, and environment in basic terms, initiate, and sustain conversations on familiar topics using basic phrases.
- Read texts on various topics and understand the main ideas and specific details.
- Write, at the sentence and paragraph level about daily life activities, past events, people, and places.
- Provide basic information, spoken and written, about different aspects of Arabic culture.
- Understand basic conversations in Arabic.

II. Course resources:

Required Text:

- Bassam K. Frangieh (2012). *Arabic for Life: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- An Arabic-English, English-Arabic dictionary (e.g. Al-Mawrid, by Munir Ba'albaki).
- Material given by the instructor from various sources.

III. Approach and Methodology

This course implements the Communicative Approach to language learning in which the student is the active learner and the instructor is a facilitator. We will remain in the Arabic language as much as possible, right from the beginning. If you do not immediately understand everything I say, do not worry, that is to be expected. I will use means such as actions, gestures, repetition, media material and paraphrasing to help you understand. A variety of authentic audio, video, and reading materials will be presented throughout the course. Students are encouraged to be creative with the language in and out of class. The following steps will help you prepare for class and are required:

1. Practice reading and writing the letters and vocabulary until you have thoroughly familiarized yourself with the spelling and the pronunciation of each word.
2. Constantly practice pronouncing new letters and words aloud.
3. In class, students are expected to engage in activities related to the context of the prepared lesson and related functions for which mastery of the material is essential. Active participation in all class activities is essential to language learning and to achieving the expected level of proficiency.
4. Do not hesitate to speak Arabic on your own during class. I will constantly urge and remind you to do so. Once you enter class, you turn on your Arabic mode button. Practice makes perfect!

IV. Student Responsibilities & Major Assignments:

The major requirements of the course include:

- Classroom participation and attendance** (10% of final grade): Students are HIGHLY urged to be in class on time and not to miss classes. This is a language class; therefore, it is crucial that everyone attends class every time. There is no way to recapture the conversations carried out in one's absence. Therefore, **attendance is mandatory**. If you cannot make it to class for a legitimate reason (the instructor is the judge of what constitutes 'legitimate'), you are expected to inform the instructor immediately. Two absences are allowed without penalty; after that, students must provide legitimate UNIVERSITY documentation to justify their absence; otherwise, one percentage point will be deducted from their attendance grade for every undocumented absence.
- Important Note: All students must arrive and leave on time. I urge you all to come on time in order not to miss anything and to avoid disrupting the class. No cell phones are allowed to be used during class.**
- Homework** (15% of final grade): Students are required to do their homework before coming to class, and if they miss class, it is their responsibility to contact their classmates

to know if any homework has been assigned. All assigned homework will be collected in class on its due date and will be graded. Late homework will be corrected, but will receive no credit, unless the student has a documented absence for the day the homework was due. **Recordings are part of the homework.**

- **Writing/presenting & Listening comprehension assignments** (15% of final grade): students will be required to write a **one page single spaced** about different topics and they are required to present the information that they wrote in front of class. Also, students will be listening (in class and at home) segments of standard Arabic conversation and identify main ideas and specific details included in those conversations.
- **Quizzes** (10% of final grade): Students will take a quiz every TWO WEEKS. Each quiz will cover the materials learned during the two weeks. They will be 10 minute written form quizzes. Any missed quizzes will not be made up unless legitimate university documentation has been provided to justify the absence (a written form is needed). Students who know beforehand that they will be absent should notify the instructor prior to the quiz.
- **Two Oral Tests** (10% of final grade): Students are expected to develop and demonstrate oral fluency. In addition to oral interaction in class, every student will meet with the instructor and discuss a simple topic. The instructor will offer a list of topics to prepare for discussion and the student will be asked to discuss one of them.
- **Writing Project** (10% of final grade): Students will choose to write 2-3 pages on a given topic. The writing projects will be evaluated based on their content, accuracy, and width of vocabulary and sentences.
- **Midterm Exam** (10% of final grade) **and Final Exams** (20% of final grade): Both the midterm and the final exams are cumulative, that is, they cover all material up to the time when the test is taken. Therefore, students are advised to study from the beginning of the course and not to procrastinate. Valid university excuse is required for make-up. The dates for these exams are indicated below.

Note on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is highly discouraged. Students are expected to acknowledge source materials. Please let me know if you have any questions about this issue.

IV. Schedule:

Note: We may sometimes not be able to abide by the exact readings and assignments in the syllabus due to the inherent flexibility of the language classroom. In addition, we will not always follow the order of the book.

Dates	Topics/Readings	Announcements/Assignments/Events
Week 1 (28, 30, 1 Aug-Sep)	Syllabus & Review	
Week 2 (X, 6, 8 Sep)	Communicative lesson(s)	Labor day
Week 3 (11, 13, 15 Sep)		Writing & presenting/Listening
Week 4 (18, 20, 22 Sep)	Communicative lesson(s)	
Week 5 (25, 27, 29 Sep)		Writing & presenting/Listening
Week 6 (2, 4, 6 Oct)	Communicative lesson(s)	
Week 7 (9, 11, 13 Oct)		- Writing & presenting/Listening - 1 st Oral Exam
Week 8 (16, X, 19 Oct)		Midterm Exam / Fall Break (Friday 20).
Week 9 (23, 25, 27 Oct)	Communicative lesson(s)	
Week 10 (30, 1, 3 Oct-Nov)		Writing & presenting/Listening
Week 11 (6, 8, 10 Nov)	Communicative lesson(s)	
Week 12 (13, 15, 17 Nov)		Writing & presenting/Listening
Week 13 (X, X, X Nov)		- Group meeting (Mon. 20) - Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 14 (27, 29, 1 Nov-Dec)	Communicative lesson(s)	- 2 nd Oral Exam - Writing Project due (Dec. 3 rd @ 11:59 pm)

Week 15 (4, 6, X Dec)	Revision (Optional)	No exam week / Last day of classes
Dec. 11, 2017 (7:30-9:20 am)		Final Exam (in our class)

V. Assessment:

The students' final grade will be the culmination of their grades on all class requirements. The students' final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and participation	10%
Homework	15%
Writing and presenting/Listening comprehension	15%
Quizzes	10%
Oral exams (2)	10%
Writing Project	10%
Midterm	10%
Final exam	20%
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Total	100%

VI. Grading:

This course will be graded based on the following scale:

A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92.99%	B+ = 87-89.99%
B = 83-86.99%	B- = 80-82.99%	C+ = 77-79.99%
C = 73-76.99%	C- = 70-72.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
D = 63-66.99%	D- = 60-62.99%	F = below 60

VIII. Academic Integrity, "The Honor System"

http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty/teaching/syllabus_resources.cfm

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students. The Honor Pledge: To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of

academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

IX. Disability Services:

http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty/teaching/syllabus_resources.cfm

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor..."

Final Note:

The \$24:00 course fee you have paid is used to staff and maintain the Language Lab (MAIN 004), and provide language specific materials.