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, and make connections with its culture.

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

- Speak about yourself, others, and environment, and initiate and sustain conversations on familiar topics,
- Read texts on a number of topics and understand the main ideas with minimal use of dictionary,
- Write, at the sentence and paragraph level, intelligibly about daily life activities, past events, correspondence, people, and places.
- Provide information, spoken and written, about different aspects of Arabic culture.
- Compose sentences that are structurally acceptable and semantically unambiguous.

II. Course resources:

Required Text:

Two textbooks will be used in this class, and they will be used in this order:

- An Arabic-English, English-Arabic dictionary (e.g. Al-Mawrid, by Munir Ba’albaki).

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 stay 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. Listen to the vocabulary and basic texts on the DVD.
2. Practice reading and writing the vocabulary in until you have thoroughly familiarized yourself with the spelling and the pronunciation of each word.
3. Prepare written answers to the questions about the basic texts in the book. 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.

IV. Student Responsibilities & Major Assignments:

The seven 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. Because this is a language class with a small enrollment, 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. Three 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.

- **Homework** (10% 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 promptly. Late homework will be corrected, but will receive no credit, unless the student has a documented absence for the day the homework was due.

- **Weekly Immersion Hour** (10% of final grade): Students are required to attend a weekly immersion hour where we practice more communication through engaging activities and games. In addition to practicing in reading, writing and listening skills. This hour is important because it is another opportunity to practice your Arabic. Practice makes perfect!

- **Quizzes** (10% of final grade): Students will take a quiz every other FRIDAY. Each quiz will cover the materials learned over the period of two weeks. These quizzes will be either in oral or written form. 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, students are required to do two skits designed to be acted out by two students. They are in the form of a conversation between two students
in a selected context. They should integrate most of the material covered and reflect the students’ creative abilities. Both skits should be video-recorded to be presented in class, where students can show and view the different videos presented. The first Oral Test is due on Monday October 6th, and the second Oral Test is due on Monday December 1st. The skits will be evaluated based on their content, pronunciation, fluency, width of vocabulary, and appropriate, functional usage.

**Weekly Short Stories** (10% of final grade): Students are to write weekly short stories in which they include the new vocabulary as well as recycling the vocabulary previously learned. As you progress during the semester, you will be able to increase the number of words in your paragraphs. The stories have to be submitted for grading each Friday. The stories will be evaluated based on their structure and your ability to convey meaning in your story. During the last week of classes, you will choose a story to present to the class.

**Midterm Exam** (15% of final grade) and **Final Exams** (25% of final grade): Both the midterm and the final exams are cumulative, that is, they cover all material in the textbook (and related 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 that 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates and Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments/Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (X, 7, 9 Jan)</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 (12, 14, 16 Jan)</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Friday, 16 Jan Quiz # 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 (X, 21, 23 Jan)</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 (26, 28, 30 Jan)</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Friday, 30 Jan Quiz # 2</td>
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<td>Week 5 (2, 4, 6 Feb)</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
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<td>Week 6 (9, 11, 13 Feb)</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Friday, 13 Feb Quiz # 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 (X, 18, 20 Feb)</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Friday, 20 Feb Submit oral test video # 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week/Weeks</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Notes/Events</td>
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<td>8 (23, 25, 27 Feb)</td>
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<td>9 (2, 4, 6 March)</td>
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<td>Monday, 2 March</td>
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<td>10 (X, X, X March)</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>11 (16, 18, 20 March)</td>
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<td>Week (23, 25, 27 March)</td>
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<td>Friday, 27 March</td>
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<td>13 (30, 1, 3 Apr)</td>
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<td>14 (6, 8, 10 Apr)</td>
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<td>Friday, 10 April</td>
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<td>15 (13, 15, 17 Apr)</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>16 (20, 22, 24, Apr)</td>
<td>Review + Story Presentations</td>
<td>Friday, 24 Apr Submit oral test video # 2</td>
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<td>Wednesday 29th April</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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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: 10%
- Quizzes (3 * 5 quizzes): 10%
- Oral skits (5 * 2 skits): 10%
- Weekly Immersion Hour: 10%
- Weekly Short Stories: 10%
- Midterm: 15%
- Final exam: 25%

Total: 100%

VI. Grading:
This course will be graded based on the following scale:

- A= 93-100 %
- A-= 90-92%
- B+= 87-89%
- B= 83-86%
- B-= 80-82%
- C+= 77-79%
- C= 73-76%
- C-= 70-72%
- D+= 67-69%
- D= 63-66%
- D-= 60-62%
- F= below 60
VII. Important Dates:

January 7  Classes Begin
January 19  Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
February 16  Holiday (Presidents’ Day)
February 17  Monday Class Schedule
March 9-13  Spring Break
April 9  Last Day of Classes
April 29  Final Exam

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..."