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 in basic terms, initiate, and sustain conversations on familiar topics using basic phrases.
- Read texts on various topics and understand the main ideas.
- 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.

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).
- Material given by the instructor from various sources. (Please have a good folder to organize worksheets, study sheets, quizzes etc.)
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 vocabulary until you have thoroughly familiarized yourself with the spelling, pronunciation, and meaning of each word.
2. Constantly practice pronouncing 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. 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** (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 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. **Homework includes:**

  **Worksheets, Written Compositions, and Recordings**
  Over the weekend, students are either to write weekly compositions or record their reading of a paragraph or their answer to a question. For writing, students are to 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 compositions must be submitted for grading each Monday. The recordings must be submitted Sunday at midnight at the latest. (Details on compositions and recordings are at the end of syllabus.)

- **Quizzes** (15% of final grade): Students will take a quiz every FRIDAY. Each quiz will cover the materials learned over the week. 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 topic. The instructor will offer two topics to prepare for discussion and the student will be asked to discuss one of the two.

- **Presentation** (10% of final grade): Students will choose to present on a list of topics. Each presentation will be at least five minutes long. Presentations will be prepared and practiced beforehand. The presentations will be evaluated based on their content, pronunciation, fluency, width of vocabulary, and appropriate, functional usage.

- **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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (11, 13, 15 Jan)</td>
<td>Revision مراجعة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (X, 20, 22 Jan)</td>
<td>Unit 3 + 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 (25, 27, 29 Jan)</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (1, 3, 5 Feb)</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (8, 10, 12 Feb)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (X, 16 Monday Schedule 17, 19 Feb)</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 (22, 24, 26 Feb)</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 (29, 2, 4 Mar)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam will be on Monday Feb.29th</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 (X, X, X Mar)</td>
<td>Unit 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 10 (14, 16, 18 Mar)  Unit 8
Week 11 (21, 23, 25 Mar)

Week 12 (28, 30, 1 Apr)  Unit 9
Week 13 (4, 6, 8 Apr)

Week 14 (11, 13, 15 Apr)  Unit 10
Week 15 (18, 20, 22 Apr)

Week 16 (25, 27, 29 Apr)  Revision

Monday, May 2  Final Exam
1:30-3:20 p.m  الإمتحان النهائي

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Oral Tests (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Holiday (Presidents’ Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Monday Class Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7-11</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VIII. Academic Integrity, “The Honor System”

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:

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..."
**Weekly Assignment Details and Expectations**

**A. Written Compositions**

Specific prompts for each week will be on Canvas, as well as a length requirement. These are to be submitted handwritten in class on Monday. Your compositions must be double spaced to give me space to make corrections and comments (i.e. on a sheet of notebook paper, skip lines).

**General Guidelines/How these will be graded:**

I am reading these compositions for both meaning and form. In general, if you answer the prompt, if you meet the length requirement, and none of your mistakes interfere with my understanding of what you’re saying, you will receive full credit. *(I will not accept sentences that have been translated directly from Google translate. You will not improve your writing if you depend on copy pasting sentences and paragraphs into Google translate.)*

**B. Voice Recordings**

Specific prompts and length requirements will be posted on the Canvas.

**General Guidelines for File Naming:**
You will be sending me many files over the semester- please name them appropriately to help keep track of them. Each file should have **your first or last name** and the **date**.

**General Guidelines/How these will be graded:**

You will have two types of recordings:
- The first is only reading a text so I can hear your pronunciation and fluency while reading.
- The second one is answering a question.

I am listening to these for both content/meaning and form. If you answer the prompt, meet the length requirement, and none of your mistakes interfere with my understanding of what you’re saying, you’ll receive full credit. Natural pauses, hesitations, and “ums” are okay. Don’t feel like you need to speak non-stop throughout the recording; few people actually speak like that. However, do not just “wing” these assignments- know what you’re going to say and maybe practice once or a few times before recording yourself. You can record yourself, listen to it, erase it, and try again as many times as you want. 😊

It’s not a good idea to write something out and then just record yourself reading it- is that what you do when actually speaking to someone or what you’ll do if you travel to an Arab country? Having a notecard with ideas or keywords to make sure you don’t forget anything is fine, but try to speak spontaneously.