

**Utah State University**  
**ARBC 2020: Intermediate Standard Arabic Second Year II**  
**Syllabus-Spring 2017**

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Instructor: **Sameer Alhojaily**

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Office hours: **by appointment**

Location: **Eccles Conference Center 108H**

Time: **9:30-10:20 MWF**

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**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 different topics and understand the main ideas with minimal use of dictionary,
- ✓ Write, at the 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.

- Bassam K. Frangieh (2012). Arabic for Life: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic. Yale University Press. New Haven and London.
- Material given by the instructor from various sources. (Please have a folder to organize worksheets, study sheets, quizzes etc.).
- 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 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. The following steps will help you prepare for class and are required:

1. Practice the vocabulary given to you each class until you have thoroughly familiarized yourself with it, its meaning, usage, spelling and the pronunciation. Prepare the basic texts given by the instructor to discuss in class.
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. Speaking Arabic only is expected during class, do not hesitate to try and make up new sentences, once we try, we learn! Remember to turn on your Arabic mode button once you entered the class.

### IV. Student Responsibilities & Major Assignments

**The seven major requirements of the course include:**

1. **Classroom participation and attendance** (15% 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.  
**Important Note:** For every two times a student is late, he or she will be considered absent. I urge you all to come on time in order not to miss anything and to avoid disrupting the class.
2. **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, opinion of a prompt, 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.

3. **Quizzes** (10% of final grade): Each quiz will cover the materials learned over the previous weeks. They will be 20 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.
4. **Two Oral Tests** (5% 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.
5. **Portfolio** (15% of final grade): Students will each create a portfolio for this course, which is a collection of student work and records of progress gathered throughout each unit that demonstrates their understandings and reflections about each topic, including images to help express their thoughts and ideas, allowing students to display and reflect on their accomplishments. This accumulation includes essays, reflections, images, vocabulary lists, and final self-assessments for each unit.
6. **Midterm Exam** (15% 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.
7. **Presentation** (5% of final grade): Students will choose to present about a country in the Middle East. Each student will present new information that we had not discussed in class. This is so the class can learn something new about each country presented. 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.

## V. Schedule

Note: I have combined parts of the book Arabic for life with material from other sources to create these units. Also, 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.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>1</b>	January 9, 11, 13	Revision Basic grammar, vocabulary and greeting.
<b>2</b>	January 18, 20	Continue Revision Lesson Thirteen: Reading “Tunisia the Green”
<b>3</b>	January 23, 25, 27	Lesson Fourteen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The dual and plural</li><li>- Masculine sound plural</li><li>- Feminine sound plural</li></ul>
<b>4</b>	January 30, February 1,3  <b>Quiz 1 Friday Feb 3</b>	Lesson Fifteen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reading “Bahrain: the pearl of the Gulf”</li><li>- Vocabulary review</li><li>- Broken plurals</li></ul>
<b>5</b>	February 6, 8, 10	Lesson Sixteen: Reading “The Arabic Family” Introduction to Arabic culture
<b>6</b>	February 13, 15, 17  <b>Quiz 2 Friday Feb 17</b>	Lesson Seventeen <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reading “Albetra in Jordan” page 339</li><li>- Reading “The Dead Sea”</li><li>- Grammar: Active and passive participle</li></ul>
<b>7</b>	February 21, 22, 24	Lesson Eighteen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reading “Al-Andalus” page 351</li><li>- Vocabulary review</li><li>- Grammar: Passive voice</li></ul>
<b>8</b>	February 27, March 1, 3  <b>Midterm Exam Friday March 3</b>	Lesson Nineteen <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review sound and broken plural</li><li>- The Five Nouns</li><li>- The Hollow Verbs</li></ul>
<b>9</b>	March 6 - 10	Spring break

<b>10</b>	March 13, 15, 17	Review grammar, reading, and listening
<b>11</b>	March 20, 22, 24 <b>Quiz 3 Friday March 24</b>	Lesson Twenty - Reading (selected topic) - Use of Numbers and Ordinal Numbers
<b>12</b>	March 27, 29, 31	Lesson Twenty-one - Reading biography for a Famous Arabic Character
<b>13</b>	April 3, 5, 7 <b>Quiz 4 Friday April 31</b>	Tour in the Arabic Countries - Reading a topic about an Arabic country - Finding the Country in the map and bordering countries - Using Directions and Maps
<b>14</b>	April 10, 12, 17	Arabic Culture and traditions - Reading - Listening - Watching Pictures and Videos
<b>15</b>	April 17, 19, 21	Arabic Politics and Economy - Reading about contemporary issues - Listening and watching news
<b>16</b>	April 24, 26, 28	Review all previously covered materials and vocabulary
<b>17</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>Final exam at 9:30</b>

## VI. 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	15%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	10%
Oral exams (2)	5%
Presentations	5%
Portfolio	15%
Midterm	15%
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 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 09	Classes Begin
January 16	Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
February 20	Holiday (Presidents' Day)
February 21	Monday Class Schedule
March 6-10	Spring Break
April 28	Last day of classes
May 1	Final Exam at 9:30

## VIII. Academic Integrity, "The Honor System"

([http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty/teaching/syllabus\\_resources.cfm](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](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.