



Utah State University  
ARBC 3010: Advanced Arabic I  
Syllabus-Fall 2012

العلم نور الجهل ظلام  
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**Instructors:** Abdulkafi Albirini  
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**Phone:** 797-8630

**Time:** 8:30- 9:20  
**Place:** Engineering 202  
**Office hours:** 9:30-10:30 MW

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### I. Course goals and Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is for students to advance their knowledge of Arabic grammar, morphology, and vocabulary in Modern Standard Arabic. In addition, the course will develop students' ability to communicate with and/or comprehend native speakers and native-speaker artifacts both orally and in reading and writing.

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

- Read non-technical texts and understand the main ideas,
- Initiate and sustain conversations on (mostly literary) topics,
- Understand the general ideas of lectures on familiar topics,
- Write essays on familiar topics,
- Provide information, spoken and written, about different figures and ideas in the Arabic culture.
- Recognize and provide the main grammatical structures of Modern Standard Arabic.

### II. Required Textbook:

One textbook and a dictionary will be used in this class:

- Brustad et al. (1995). *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part II*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press. Second Edition.
- 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. 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 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 except in cases of illness, family emergency, and things of that nature. According to the attendance policy of this course, students are allowed five undocumented absences per semester. However, after the fifth absence, 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.
- **Quizzes** (15% of final grade): Students will take a quiz every other FRIDAY. Each quiz will cover the materials learned over the period of two weeks. 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.
- **Oral Presentation** (10% of final grade): students are expected to give a 10-minute oral presentation on a topic agreed upon with the instructor to the rest of the class, followed by a section of questions and answers. The topic should be related to the Arabic language or culture (e.g., food, dress, etc.). Students will be evaluated based on their fluency and accuracy as well as the content and organization of their presentations. Valid university excuse is required for a make-up presentation, in which case the student has to arrange a presentation “switch” with a colleague.
- **Project Paper** (10% of final grade): Students are expected to write a project paper that is due by the fourteenth week of the semester about one aspect of the Arabic language, culture, peoples, or societies (e.g., modern Arabic poetry, gender roles, etc.). The length of the project paper should be between 400 and 500 words written in Modern Standard Arabic. The papers will be evaluated based on their information, structural accuracy, width of vocabulary, and lexical appropriateness. A late paper will receive no credit, unless a valid university excuse is provided.
- **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.

<b>Dates and Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments/Events</b>
Week 1 (27, 29 & 31 Aug)	Revision, lesson 1	
Week 2 (X,5,7 Sept)	Lesson 1 continued	Friday, 7 Sept Quiz # 1
Week 3 (10, 12, 14 Sept)	Lesson 1 continued	Presentation #1
Week 4 (17, 19, 21 Sept)	Lesson 2	Friday, 21 Sept Quiz # 2
Week 5 (24, 26, 28 Sept)	Lesson 2 continued	Presentation # 2
Week 6 (1, 3, 5 Oct)	Lesson 3	Friday, 5 Oct Quiz # 3
Week 7 (8, 10, 12 Oct)	Lesson 3 continued	Presentation # 3
Week 8 (15, 17, X Oct)	Lesson 3 continued	Wednesday, 17 Oct Midterm exam
Week 9 (22, 24, 26 Oct)	Lesson 4	Presentation # 4
Week 10 (29, 31 Oct & 2 Nov)	Lesson 4 continued	Friday, 2 Nov Quiz # 4
Week 11 (5, 7, 9 Nov)	Lesson 5	Presentation # 5
Week 12 (12, 14, 16 Nov)	Lesson 5 continued	Friday, 16 Nov Quiz # 5
Week 13 (19, X, X Nov)	Lesson 5 continued	Presentation # 6
Week 14 (26, 28, 30 Nov)	Lesson 6	Friday, 30 Nov Project Paper due
Week 15 (3, 5, 7 Dec)	Lesson 6 continued	
Final Examinations' Week		9:30 to 11:20 a.m., 12 December

## 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%
Quizzes (3* 5 quizzes)	15%
Project Paper	10%
Presentation	10%
Midterm	15%
Final exam	25%
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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:

Mon, 27 August	Beginning of instruction
Mon, 3 September	Labor day (no class)
Friday, 19 October	Fall break
Wed-Fri, 21-23 November	Thanksgiving break (no class)
Fri, 7 December	Last day of instruction
Monday, 12 December	Final exam (9:30 to 11:20 a.m. in room 202 Engineering)

## 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..."