

Utah State University
ARBC 1010: Beginners Standard
Arabic First Year I
Syllabus-Fall 2016

أهلاً وسهلاً
welcome

Instructor: Marwan Ahmed
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Office hours: By appointment
Old Main 202

Merrill-Cazier Library 302
Time: 11:30-12:20 MWF

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- First of all, kudos to you for choosing to learn Arabic as a foreign language! You will find that despite the effort it takes to learn Arabic, it is a rewarding experience. Learning to speak Arabic prepares you to take on a journey into the Middle East, not as a tourist, but as someone who is seeking a true understanding of the Arab peoples' way of life. In this course, you will begin to learn the basics of the Arabic language. In order to reach a decent level of proficiency and fulfill your career goals and interests that involve speaking Arabic, you will need to take the following Arabic courses 1020, 2010 etc. and practice whenever you can. I assure you this course will be the beginning of a new and interesting experience that is both challenging and gratifying.

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 basic texts 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:

- 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. It will take time and effort to become accustomed to pronouncing these new sounds.
3. Prepare the basic texts given by the instructor to discuss in class. 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** (15% 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. 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. 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

- **Quizzes** (10% 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. In addition to FRIDAY quizzes, there will be short vocabulary quizzes at the beginning of class for the days you had vocabulary study at home.

- **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.

- **Presentation** (10% of final grade): Students will choose to present on a given topic. 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 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. We will simultaneously learn the alphabet and useful Arabic phrases using transliteration that will allow you to communicate in Arabic. We will then gradually eliminate usage of transliteration and use only Arabic script. The underline dates of every Thursday are quiz days.

Dates	Topics/Readings	Announcements/Assignments/Events
Week 1 (29, 31, 2 Aug-Sep)	Section 1 – Unit 1	
Week 2 (X, 7, 9 Sep)	Unit 2	Labor Day
Week 3 (12, 14, 16 Sep)	Unit 3	
Week 4 (19, 21, 23 Sep)	Unit 4	
Week 5 (26, 28, 30 Sep)	Unit 5	
Week 6 (3, 5, 7 Oct)	Unit 6	
Week 7 (10, 12, 14 Oct)	Unit 7	
Week 8 (17, 19, 20 Oct)	Unit 8,9	Midterm Exam / Fall Break (Friday's Scheduled on Thursday)
Week 9 (24, 26, 28 Oct)	Section 2 – Lesson 1	
Week 10 (31, 2, 4 Oct-Nov)	Lesson 2	
Week 11 (7, 9, 11 Nov)	Lesson 3	

Week 12 (14, 16, 18 Nov)	Lesson 4	
Week 13 (21, X, X Nov)	Lesson 5	Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 14 (28, 30, 2 Nov-Dec)	Lesson 6	
Week 15 (5, 7, 9 Dec)	Revision مراجعة	No exam week / Last day of classes
Dec. <u>14th</u>		Final Exam الامتحان 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:

Attendance and participation	15%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	10%
Oral exams (2)	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

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), provide language specific materials, and to pay teaching tutors who assist instructors in the classroom and lab.