

Course Syllabus ARB 401-001
Fall 2008 | Department of Near Eastern Studies

Course Name: Intermediate Arabic I
Course Number: ARB 401 Section 1
Place & Time: MRSHL 490
MWF: 8:30 – 9:50 am

Instructor: Jeremy Palmer
Office: Marshall 4568
Phone: (520) 626-6567
Office Hrs: M, W 10:00 am -11:00 am
e-mail:
jeremy.palmer@gmail.com

Telephone: 520.245.3021 (emergencies only). Please use **email** for non-emergencies.

Books/Materials

Required

Brustad, Kristen, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al-Tonsi. Al-Kitaab fii Ta^ḥallum al-
Arabiyya: A Textbook for Intermediate Arabic Part One. Washington, D.C.:
Georgetown University Press. Second edition.

Wehr, H. A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic. Fourth edition. (Third is fine also)

Recommended

- 1) Younes, Munther (2001). Tales from Kalila Wa Dimna: For Students of Arabic.
- 2) Doniach, Concise Oxford English Arabic Dictionary. Oxford.

Office Hours

Please feel free to come see me during my office hours. You have a better chance of not having to wait if you make an appointment, even during office hours. Of course, you can always just drop by. If you cannot come to my office hours, send me an e-mail to arrange another meeting time. E-mail is the quickest and most reliable way to contact me.

Course Description and Objectives

This is the first semester of a two-semester course. The course is designed for students who have basic background knowledge in Modern Standard Arabic vocabulary and syntax (Elementary level), the ability to communicate, both in writing and speech, using simple sentences and have the ability to comprehend written and spoken instructions and conversations in basic MSA. The course objective is to give you a strong foundation at the intermediate level in reading, writing, speaking and listening to MSA. There will be a continued emphasis on developing all language skills, with a particular emphasis on

vocabulary learning, developing the ability to use the language communicatively and creatively, and learning and developing strategies for successful second language learning. Students will give frequent 3-5 minute oral presentations to develop oral production skills. Throughout the course, authentic, semi-authentic, and teacher-prepared materials are used, providing exposure to various aspects of the language, culture and history of the Arabic speaking world.

Homework

Language learning is incremental. It is very important to keep up with the daily homework assignments. You should expect to spend at least one to two hours a day, outside of class, working on your Arabic if you hope to get an A or a B in the class. I encourage you to develop study groups. If you miss class, find out what you missed and do your best to keep up and, if possible, come to class with the due assignment completed. I will establish a mail distribution list for the class in order to facilitate your communication with one another outside of class.

Homework will usually be collected at the **BEGINNING** of the class period on the day it is due. Homework will be graded and returned by the next class meeting whenever possible. Late homework will be accepted *for feedback only*, not for a grade or credit, but I encourage you to turn it in for feedback even if it is late. Homework turned in on time takes priority over late homework as far as grading and reviewing goes. So, if you turn your homework in late, you may have to wait longer to get it back. **Each homework has a number assigned to it. Please write this number and the date it is submitted at the top of the homework. If your homework is more than one page, please staple the pages together.**

+ **Please keep all of your homework assignments for the entire semester.** This will allow us to ensure you have the correct homework grade at the end of the semester. If my records indicate that you are missing an assignment, but you did it – simply show me the homework and you will get the point.

Learning Grammar

Throughout the semester, you will frequently be reading grammatical explanations in the book and then doing written exercises to practice the grammar point. The construction will always be one that you have already seen at least once in the context of the monologues with which each chapter begins. In general, I will not be explaining these grammar points in any more detail in class in advance of your working with them for homework. I believe that, for the most part, you are quite capable of reading a grammar explanation and doing a written exercise based on it. Read the explanation and consider the examples carefully before doing the exercises based on it. In class grammatical explanations will be restricted to occasions when I anticipate some difficulty or where homework has revealed some difficulty or misunderstanding. Turning in your homework on time is crucial to the success of this system. If you don't turn in your homework, I cannot identify problem areas. Almost every day in class we will be doing some activity that presupposes that you have completed some written homework assignment to prepare

you for that activity. Your benefit from the class activities will be greatly diminished if you have not done this preparatory homework. If you are not prepared for class, you may be asked to sit to the side and listen without direct participation.

Class Activities and Class Preparation

In class, we will be practicing pronunciation, reading, listening, writing, speaking vocabulary and structures through an eclectic mix of activities ranging from choral repetition to open ended-activities done in pairs or small groups. The range of activities we will use in the class is wide. You will find that some of them "fit" your language learning style and preferred learning strategies. Others may not seem to be such a good match but I would ask that you try to understand the objective of a particular activity and perform it faithfully to get the intended benefit. Language learning activities are sometimes like physical exercises; the ones we like the least are the ones we need the most! Many of the classroom activities that we do will only be successful if you have adequately prepared for them by doing the assigned homework. This is particularly true for the new vocabulary. Before reading the text for a new chapter you will do written exercises on the target vocabulary and then we will do activities in class to activate that vocabulary. The extent to which you benefit from the in-class activities will be directly correlated to the amount of time you prepare the new vocabulary. I encourage you to continue preparing flashcards (or another strategy) for the new vocabulary in each lesson.

Quizzes and Exams/Make-ups

There will be frequent quizzes and tests. Although testing takes up valuable class time, it provides the necessary incentive to prepare for class and to review material (especially vocabulary!) as you learn and these are both crucial to your success in learning Arabic. Major tests are indicated on the semester schedule overview that will be handed to you. There will be at times pre-announced quizzes on vocabulary. If you will miss/have missed a quiz or test, contact me as soon as you know that you will be missing/have missed it. There will also be unannounced pop quizzes. If you have not contacted me within 24 hours after the quiz or test has been given, to discuss the possibility of a make-up, you will receive a "0". I will consider requests for make-ups on a case-by-case basis.

+Please Note that tests and quizzes are not limited to vocabulary, grammar etc. from Al-Kitaab. Anything said in class and/or on handouts is fair game for tests and quizzes. Thus, it is important to pay attention in class and do the homework well.

The final exam covering lessons 14-20 will be on **Wednesday, December 17, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

Oral Recitations/Presentations

In addition to general chapter tests and vocabulary quizzes, you will be frequently making in-class oral presentations on topics related to the theme of the lesson we are studying or other themes. These presentations will sometimes require you to do some background research in order to gather more information about some culturally relevant topic. However, your performance will be based on the fluency and accuracy of your language in presenting the information, not the accuracy of the information itself. During

the presentation you will not be allowed to read from a paper. Oral presentations are meant to evaluate your oral skills. A grading rubric will be provided for these presentations.

Spoken Arabic

Some educated spoken Arabic (ESA) will be introduced in class. This includes some vocabulary and expressions. Each chapter test will incorporate at least one extra credit question regarding spoken Arabic.

Conversation Partner Meetings

You will be required to meet with a native speaker regularly to practice your Arabic. You will submit a brief report to me about the meeting. More details about finding a conversation partner and completing the reports will be discussed in class.

Attendance/Tardiness and Participation

Attendance and active participation in class is very important. 10% of your grade will be based on this aspect of your performance in the class. You are responsible for the material presented in class. If you come in to class after I have taken attendance please come up to me after class and remind me to mark you tardy, not absent. **It is disruptive to the class to have students arriving late so please make your best effort to be on time.** Missing *more than 3 classes without an acceptable excuse* will negatively affect your grade. Besides attendance, for maximum credit, you should be alert, **speak Arabic as much as possible** (especially if you are working in pairs or small groups), listen to your classmates and give them feedback on their comprehensibility. In general, always think of ways to use your time in class to improve your Arabic proficiency in order to earn full credit for participation. Always ask questions in Arabic.

Essay Writing

During the semester you will write a number of essays in Arabic. Topics will be discussed and assigned in class. This writing is intended to help you develop your writing fluency and accuracy and to give you the opportunity to use the vocabulary and structures you know and are learning to express yourself in writing. I will evaluate the writing on the basis of both content and form. Essays should be typed. Please start now to work on a way that you will be able to type Arabic so that you are ready when the first writing assignment is given. Essays should be a minimum of 150 words. Due dates for essays will be included in the daily schedules, available on the class website. Generally, I will ask you to come to class with a **TYPED draft** of the essay ready for editing in an in-class workshop. You will then have a chance to rewrite the essay before submitting the final copy.

Grades

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Chapter tests & quizzes	10%	Homework	20%
Oral Recitations/Presentations	10%	Conversation partner work	5%
Midterm Test	15%	Attendance/Participation	10%

Essays	10%	Final Exam	20%
Total			100%

A Final Note

Remember that languages are rich, organic and always changing. It is probably a good idea to learn to TOLERATE AMBIGUITY when learning Arabic. You have to learn to use your finite knowledge in an infinite realm. When reading and article or listening to an audio clip – don't get stuck on one word. Try for the general meaning first and the details after.

Religious Holidays

If you will be absent in order to observe any religious holy days during the semester please let me know within the first two weeks of class.

Incomplete Work

If you do not do all the work for the course and have not made arrangements with me to get a grade of "I" (incomplete), you will receive a grade based on whatever grades I have for you, with "0" grades for the ones missed averaged in.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to comply with the university's Student Code of Academic Integrity, available at: <http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies>.

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements are encouraged to register with the Disability Resource Center <http://drc.arizona.edu> and contact me to discuss access issues.