

## Course Syllabus

**Course Name:** Intermediate Arabic I  
**Course No.:** ARB 401 Section 1  
**Place & Time:** Marshall Rm 490  
May 20<sup>th</sup> – June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
MTWRF: 9:00 – 12:00

**Instructor:** Mohammed Naser  
**Office:** Marshall Rm # 458  
**Office Hrs:** MWR 12 – 1:00 p.m.  
**Email:** [mnaser@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mnader@email.arizona.edu)

**Grader:** Reem Hazboun  
**Office:** Marshall Rm # 458  
**Office hrs:** M-F 12 – 1:00 p.m.  
**Email:** [whitegazelle@gmail.com](mailto:whitegazelle@gmail.com)

### Books/Materials:

#### Required

Brustad, Kristen, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al-Tonsi. Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum 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

Doniach, Concise Oxford English Arabic Dictionary. Oxford.

#### Office Hours

If my office hours do not work for you, please send me an e-mail to arrange another meeting time.

#### 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 materials are used, providing exposure to various aspects of the 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 two to three hours a day, outside of class, working on your Arabic if you hope to get an A or a B in the class. That includes weekend days. Homework assignments will be handed to you on a regular basis. Generally the information in the daily schedule regarding homework due dates will be complete but it is always a good idea to check with another student from class to see if any special instructions were given in class if you miss 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 done. I will establish a mail distribution list for the class in order to facilitate your communication with one another outside of class. In addition to written homework, I will ask you, on a regular basis, to do in-class oral presentations and submit written reports.

Homework will usually be collected at the end 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 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 at the top of the homework. If your homework is more than one page, please staple the pages together.**

For some of the homework assignments, you will be given a grade and feedback that indicates the general nature/location of an error. You will then have the opportunity to redo the homework and resubmit it for an improved grade. This is not an opportunity to turn in late homework. If you did not do the homework on time and completely originally, you cannot take advantage of the opportunity to redo it for a better grade. So, for instance if half of an exercise was not done the first time the homework was turned in, it cannot be done late for credit. Grade increases result from corrections of work already attempted, on time.

If you want credit for your homework, the only alternative to submitting it in class is to submit it before class and inform your teacher that you are going to do this and agree on arrangements for getting him/her your homework.

**When you make your corrections, use a pen color different from the color that you used when you wrote the homework and from the color your instructor used to indicate corrections needed. Use, in other words, a third color.**

If your homework does not need any corrections it will be returned to you with "NCR" written on indicating that "no corrections are required" on that homework. In this case you will receive full credit for the homework and for the corrections. Please note that you may get back a homework that has a 10/10 grade on it, but it may still need a few minor corrections. If your homework does not explicitly say NCR on it, you need to make some corrections and return it for a second grade.

1 extra credit point will be given per assignment (not per exercise) for writing out all exercises in the homework fully. If any of the exercises in the homework assignment that could be written



out are not written out, you will not earn the extra credit pt. on that homework. On the other hand, **there will be a 1-point penalty for homework that is not double-spaced and stapled.** (This is equal to the extra credit you stand to gain by writing out exercises fully.) Double spacing makes it much easier for the grader to read your homework and make legible corrections and comments.

### **Class Activities and Class Preparation**

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. 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 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. 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.

A final exam covering lessons 14-20 will be on **Thursday, June 18, 2009 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

### **Oral Presentations/Written Reports**

In addition to general chapter tests and vocabulary quizzes, you will be doing in-class oral presentations on topics related to the theme of the lesson we are studying. 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. Also the presentations will aim to activate the new vocabulary that you are learning.

The same applies to written reports that you will be asked to submit: 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.

### **Attendance/Tardiness and Participation**

Attendance and active participation in class is very important. 8% of your grade will be based on this aspect of your performance in the class. You are responsible for the material presented in class. **It is disruptive to the class to have students arriving late so please make your best**



**effort to be on time.** Missing more than 2 classes without an acceptable excuse will negatively affect your grade. If you miss more than 2 classes 5 points will be deducted for each additional absence. 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.

### Grades

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Chapter tests	20%	Final Exam	30%
Written Reports	10%	Oral Presentations	10%
Homework	12%	Final Essay	5%
Final Oral Presentation	5%	Participation/Attendance	8%

**Letter grades are determined as follows:**

**A: 90-100 B: 80-89.9 C: 70-79.9 D: 65 – 69.9 E: below 65**

**Borderline grades (between two letter grades) will be determined on a case by case basis. For instance, a grade of 89.9% may be either a B or an A depending usually on test scores.**

### Religious holydays

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

We follow the University's policy on incomplete grades: The grade of **I** may be awarded only at the end of a term, when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. The grade of I is not to be awarded in place of a failing grade or when the student is expected to repeat the course; in such a case, a grade other than I must be assigned. Students should make arrangements with the instructor to receive an incomplete grade before the end of the term.

If you do not do all the work for the course and have not made arrangements with your instructor to get a grade of “I” (incomplete), you will receive a grade based on whatever grades you have earned so far, with “0” grades for missing work averaged in.

**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 and contact me to discuss access issues.**

