

Course Syllabus

Course Name: Intermediate Arabic II

Course No.: ARB 402 Section 1

Place & Time: Marshall Rm 490

MTWRF: 8:30 – 12:30

Instructor: Mohammed Naser

Office: Marshall, # 458

Office Hrs: MWR 12 to 1:00 pm

Grader: Reem Hazboun

Office: Marshall, # 458

Office hrs: every day, 12 - 1

Email: mnaser@email.arizona.edu **Email:** whitegazelle@gmail.com

Books/Materials:

Required

Brustad, Kristen, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al-Tonsi. Al-Kitaab fii Ta^callum al-^cArabiyya: A Textbook for Intermediate Arabic Part Two. 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

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

The course is designed for students who have basic to intermediate 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. 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.

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.

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.

Learning Grammar

We will be going over grammar points from the book. Also there will be additional activities designed to practice grammar points. Go over the grammar explanations from the book in order to come to class prepared. We will be doing some of the drills in class, and some of the other drills will be assigned as homework. Also there will be quizzes on the grammar points covered in class.

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. 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. 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

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 1 to 4 will be on **Tuesday, July 14, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Oral Presentations + Writing Reports

Every Friday there will be an oral presentation that you will do using some of the new vocabulary words and new grammar structures that the unit at hand is covering. For each oral presentation that you will do, you will also have to hand in a written report about the same subject that you will be presenting on. The oral presentations and the written reports will be done and collected on Friday.

The written reports and oral presentations are 30% of your overall grade (15% each).

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. 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 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.

Extra Credit Opportunities

There will be several extra credit opportunities throughout the semester to improve your final grade. Participating in these opportunities is optional. Based on the type of this opportunity (written versus oral), extra points can be added to your Oral Presentations final grade (up to 2%), or the Essays final grade (up to 2%). I will be sharing more information in class as to when and how you can participate in these opportunities.

Grades

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Chapter tests	20%	Written Reports	15%
Homework	12%	Oral Presentations	15%
Attendance/Participation	8%	Final Exam	30%
		Total	100%

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.

