

## Levantine Arabic (ARB 424A-524A)

Fall 2008 | Department of Near Eastern Studies

*Course Title: Levantine Arabic I*

*Room: 479 Marshall*

*Course Number: ARB 424a*

*Time: 2:00-3:15 T R*

*Instructor: Samira Farwaneh*

*Office: 450 Marshall bldg Phone: 621-8629*

*Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30, R 3:30-4:30, or by appointment E-Mail: [Farwaneh@email.arizona.edu](mailto:Farwaneh@email.arizona.edu)*

### Course Description and Objectives

Levantine Arabic is a general designation used for a continuum of regional Arabic varieties spoken in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. Another name for the cluster is Northwest Arabian Arabic. The course will focus on the dialect of the Author and the Instructor; namely, Palestinian Arabic switching between its two major varieties, the West Bank and the Gaza dialects.

This is a fully-fledged course targeting all four skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. Although the textbook is written using the phonetic alphabet, we will use the Arabic script in reading and writing, on par with native speakers of the dialect; hence, knowledge of Arabic orthography is required.

By the end of this course, I expect you to reach an “Intermediate Low” level on the ACTFL proficiency scale. You should be able to master the following social and communicative functions:

1. Greeting others; introducing yourself and getting information about others.
2. Identifying and describing objects.
3. Giving and receiving simple directions.
4. Giving simple description of people and places.
5. Narrating daily and habitual actions.
6. Dealing with simple hospitality tasks; invitations, offers, thanks.
7. Ordering a meal at a restaurant.

The minimum requirement for this course is one year of Arabic (any variety). Permission to register for this course may be granted to students with no background in Arabic at the discretion of the Instructor, so you need to consult with the Instructor before registering.

### Course Textbooks

1. **Levantine for Non-Natives: A Proficiency-Based Approach” by Lutfi Hussein published by Yale University Press; tapes only. You may order the tapes from Yale u. Press or Amazon.com, or arrange to have them duplicated or copied on CDs.**
2. **A Syrian Arabic Course from syrianarabic.com. The site contains PDF files and MP3 recordings.**

### Grading Policy

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Two Oral Interviews:	20%
Class Presentation:	10%
Listening quizzes:	20%
Homework	20%
Class attendance and participation:	10%
Final Exam:	20%

#### Graduate Students

Two Oral Interviews:	30%
Class Presentation:	20%
Listening quizzes:	30%
Homework	30%
Class attendance and participation:	20%
Final Exam:	30%
Readings and discussions:	40%

Graduate students are required to attend weekly meetings to discuss additional readings on the history and structure of Levantine.