

# Introduction to Arabic LINGUISTICS

## Arabic 426/526

Fall 2008 | Department of Near Eastern Studies

Room: 479 Marshall  
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Time: 11:00-12:15 T R  
Office: 450 Marshall  
Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30 R 3:30-4:30

### Description of the Course

Arabic 426/526 is an introductory course to the structure of the Arabic language. Students will learn in this course both the facts about language in general as well as the methodologies linguists use to analyze particular languages, with emphasis exclusively on Arabic data. Data will be drawn from Standard Arabic as well as Modern Arabic dialects. English data may be referred to for the purposes of illustration and/or comparison. The focus of the course is to describe and analyze the sound system, word and sentence structure of different Modern varieties of Arabic -including Standard Arabic- as they are used by various speech communities.

### Course Objectives

- Name and identify the location of the major Arabic dialects.
- Be able to recognize and transcribe Arabic sounds broadly and fairly accurately using the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- Be able to apply proper analytical techniques to uncover and describe linguistically significant generalizations.
- When given data analysis problems, you should be able to identify the necessary structural elements- morphemes, roots, and syntactic categories, providing solid arguments for your labeling.
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the diglossic use of Arabic by illustrating some structural and functional differences between Modern Standard and Colloquial Arabic.

### Course Policy

Class Attendance Class attendance is REQUIRED in this course. You are responsible for the material presented in class lectures and for any handouts passed out in class as well as for the assigned readings. If you must miss a regular class meeting, call the professor or one of your classmates ASAP to ask about the material covered in class.

Grading Your final grade will be based on the following:

Undergraduates:

Midterm: 20%

Final: 30%

Homework and classwork assignments: 30%

Projects: 20%

Graduates and Undergraduate Honors:

- Midterm: 15%
- Final exam: 25%
- Homework and Classwork: 15%
- Projects: 20%
- Class Presentation: 5%
- Term paper: 20%

There will be NO MAKE-UP exams. If there is a serious problem that prevents you from taking the exam on the designated date, please speak with me about it as soon as possible so we can work something out. A written statement will be required to allow you to take the exam at a later date. Likewise, incompletes will be granted only under extreme circumstances and then only if 80% of the course work has been completed. Unless you make special arrangements to receive an incomplete, no incomplete will be given.

*The University of Arizona seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need reasonable accommodations in this class, prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Disability Resource Center, (621-3268) to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification.*

**Required course materials:**

1. Holes, Clive. 2004. *Modern Arabic: Structures, Functions, and Varieties*. Georgetown University Press. (available at the SU bookstore)
2. Versteegh, Kees. 1997. *The Arabic Language*.
3. Problem sets will be distributed in class.
4. Theoretical and descriptive Articles will be placed onD2L.

