Year of study: Senior

Semesters offered: fall, spring

Course aliases: arabic

Course review:  
a)Introduction to Arabic Language (LANG 124)  
b)For everyone planning to take a course with Hafiz Abdul Qadeer, here is a review of LANG 124 - Introduction to Arabic.  
Course Content: The content is pretty basic. Easy-ish even.  
Teaching Style: If you wish to be transported back to the stone ages, this course is perfect for you. The first thing you will be handed in the course is course pack, which is a scanned copy of a photocopy (of a photocopy probably). The text is illegible. The teaching style is so out of date you will begin to wonder who let this guy teach  
Grading: This part of the course is done completely on vibes. It has to be the laziest kind of grading I have ever seen during my time at LUMS. There is no grading rubric, which is completely hilarious, since this is a language course. By definition, a language course entails that marks are given for meeting certain criteria, for example, correct spellings, correct sentence structure, correct pronouns, complexity of work etc. However, for this course marks are deducted on the basis of how many mistakes you have made. The instructor and TA will count your mistakes, multiply it by either 0.5 or 1, whatever suits them, and assign you marks. They will give marks to students who copy-paste verbatim from the provided course pack. This is, quite frankly, horrific and super lazy. I have TA’ed classes x10 the size of this class, and the grading has never been this poor or this unorganised.  
Exams: The exams and quizzes are the worst part of the course. They test you solely on your ability to recall and memorise. Nothing to do with grammar or conversation. Everything is marked in the most pedantic manner. You can make one slight mistake in a sentence and lose all of your marks.  
To conclude, nothing about this course is “Intro” level. While the content is easy, the entire teaching staff treat you like you are taking a graduate level course, deducting marks for every small thing. They are extremely opinionated and biased, and to support this, I would like to disclose what happened to me during the semester.  
One of the assignments was to write an 80 word essay on the topic “My introduction”. We were given two weeks to complete this assignment, and I spent a decent amount of time on it. Before the submission deadline, I went to my TA and asked him to review my assignment so that I can score better on it. The TA recommended a few changes, and I explicitly asked him if I could include those changes in the assignment and he said “Aap kar lain”, so I did. A couple of weeks later, the instructor returned the assignments, and I received less than 50% marks on the assignment, so I went to the instructor. He took one look at the assignment and said, “Yeh aap nay google say likha hai”. When I asked him what proof he had, he underlined a couple of sentences that the TA had asked me to modify. At this point, I produced a couple of my earlier drafts and informed him that the TA had assisted me in the specific sentences he underlined. Then he said “aap nay vocabulary kahan say li”, and I said “google say” to which he said “yeh allowed nahin hai” but it was allowed, as stated by the TA in the assignment email. When I asked him to contact the TA as proof that I had done the assignment myself, he said “Kon TA, mein tou nahin jaanta TA kon hai”. Then he asked me to reproduce the entire assignment in front of him, and I did. I had a total of 4 mistakes in that, which he circled, increased my marks to exactly 50% and sent me on my way. When I confronted him about his allegation, he said “App nay jis say baat karni hai kar lain”.  
This instructor, in all his greatness, created a final with vocabulary we had not studied. His viva was a joke and an attempt at making students sweat and fail. This entire course was so unplanned that I ended up wondering who approved this course in the department. The way he treated me with one assignment, and pelted me with false allegations without proof, just showed that he acts with complete impunity and has no oversight whatsoever. He may be able to teach like this in other universities where students don’t have any power, but this is not the standard of courses we as students expect from LUMS.  
At the end of the day, I was hopeful that I would be fine in terms of grading, since the course was supposed to be absolutely graded. However, I ended up with a C+ in an intro to language course, where the instructor and TA in their infinite wisdom applied relative grading to a class of 23 students. They tried to explain it away by saying that “it’s a department policy”, but it’s not. The instructor has ignored all forms of communication and is unwilling to explain his grading.  
c)course difficulty was a 3

GPA: 3.30-3.60