

اللغة العربية 102

اهداف الصف / ربيع 2010

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Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30, F 11:30-1:00 and by appointment

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Course Language:

By the end of the semester we will be conducting the course in Arabic. As we learn more vocabulary and grammar it will be possible to ask and answer most of your questions in Arabic. We will be doing many small-group activities in class; it is extremely important to do these activities without using English. Repeated use of English in class during these activities will lower your participation grade for the class.

Course Objectives for Arabic 102:

By the end of this semester you will, إن شاء الله, have reached intermediate proficiency in Arabic and will:

1. be able to speak about yourself and your environment, initiate and sustain conversations on a number of topics (e.g., family, friends, study, etc.) and narrate in present, past and future time frames.
2. be able to read texts on familiar topics and understand the main ideas without using the dictionary,
3. be able to comprehend simple Arabic discourse dealing with familiar topics,
4. be able to comprehend and produce basic words and expressions in Egyptian Colloquial.
5. be able to carry out written transactions connected to daily life and write short letters and essays,
6. be familiar with many aspects of Arab culture, such as social and religious customs and traditions, family life, and education,
7. add approximately 300 words to your active vocabulary,
8. be able to recognize and use verbs in all major tenses, recognize and form complex sentence structures such as dependent clauses, and recognize and use negation patterns, and
9. learn to use an Arabic dictionary.

Course Materials (available at the campus book store)

- 1) Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, Abbas Al-Tonsi, *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part One*, second edition, Georgetown University Press, 2004. This book also comes with DVDs.
- 2) *The Hans-Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. Spoken Languages Services. By Hans Wehr, J. Milton Cowan (Editor). [recommended]

Blackboard

This course will involve using the online communication tools on Blackboard as well as readings, documents, and assignments located there.

Course Requirements and Grade:

1. Attendance, Participation and Preparation (20%) الحضور إلى الصف والمشاركة

You must attend class and **come prepared for class activities** (this means following the syllabus, studying vocabulary and grammar, and being ready to participate). You must attend all classes throughout the semester and arrive to class on time. If you are late to class, you will be considered absent for that day. You are allowed to be absent from a total of three (3) class sessions. With every additional absence your final grade for this class will go down 5%. This means you will have to plan ahead with your allowance of three absences. Talk to me ahead of time, if you foresee any difficulties for yourself with this policy. Absence, however, does not absolve one from homework or preparing for the following class. Please inform me of absences before class. Repeated lack of preparation for class will result in loss of the privilege to participate in class activities and group work.

2. Homework Assignments (20%) الواجبات

There will be daily written assignments. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the day for which it is assigned. **Late homework assignments will not be given any credit.** You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together, with the stipulation that everyone must submit her/his own individual paper and everyone must have participated equally in doing the work. To copy someone else's homework is a violation of the Oxford College Honor Code.

Please hand in homework written out on a separate sheet of paper. Xeroxes from the book will not be accepted. Please staple all sheets of paper for a homework assignment. For each assignment **please include the date that it is due as well as the lesson and exercise numbers.**

Homework assignments **will be graded on a scale from 1 to 3** (3= excellent/very good, 2= good but not your best effort, 1= poor or sloppy work). You will be graded on the overall quality of your work, not on the number of correct or incorrect answers.

3. Homework Correction (5%) تصحيح الواجبات

Mistakes on the homework will not be corrected but will be circled or underlined and marked with a special correction code. When you get back your assignment, you should go over it to correct the mistakes (using a different color ink or pencil) on the original assignment and then **resubmit it the next day.**

4. Personality Project (5%) قصة الشخصية

This semester, we will begin something new. Each of you will have “personality project.” This project is intended to allow you to engage in creative writing in Arabic using your new vocabulary and structures. You will create a fictional character that runs parallel to the Maha and Khaled story and develop it through your writings. You are expected to submit the entries regularly for checking, and then edit them based on the comments and feedback provided. We will incorporate working on the personality project within the weekly syllabus.

Your project will have six entries for the semester (one in each of the units 5-10). Each entry must be **100 words at least (typed in Arabic)** and will be posted to the Blackboard blog titled **الشخصية**. You will need to learn to use the computer to type your entries. We will provide you with information on how to do that and we encourage you to get an early start doing this. You will receive credit based on the extent of the language you use to talk about your **شخصية**, the extent to which you use new vocabulary and structures, and the creativity you demonstrate. Toward the end of the semester, you will give an oral presentation in class on the character your created.

5. Tests, Quizzes, Oral Presentations (30%):

الامتحانات

There will be several tests and oral presentations. You will be informed of the dates of these tests and presentations, and the material they cover, at least a week in advance.

6. Video Project (5%):

الاسكتش او التقديم على الفيديو

You will be asked to do one skit or presentation (10 minutes) with a partner. The video project must be submitted on tape/DVD to be presented on the last day of class (Monday, April 26, 2009).

7. Final Examination (15%):

الامتحان النهائي

The final examination will be comprehensive and will test all the skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The final exam is scheduled for Friday, April 30 (9:00-12:00).

8. The Arabic Table (Extra Credit):

الطاولة العربية

You are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Arabic Table held twice a week on the Atlanta campus. This will be an opportunity for you to meet students in the upper levels and in other sections of 102 and practice your Arabic with them.

All class activities, homework assignments, quizzes and tests are governed by the Oxford College Honor Code. If you have questions regarding any aspect of this code, please come see me.

How to prepare for class:

Listening: As in Arabic 101, it is essential for you to use the DVDs extensively to listen to vocabulary, text, and grammar as part of preparing for class. Listen and repeat as many times as you can.

Vocabulary: When preparing new vocabulary for class I expect you to listen to each of the new words on the DVD and pay attention to the context in which the new word is used. Repeat each word several times until you can say it easily. To remember the meaning of the new words it helps to use them in your own sentences and to study in groups. It does not help to write the English word or to use the vocabulary lists in the book to memorize these words. All the vocabulary in this book is recycled constantly throughout the drills, therefore it helps to pay close attention to them as you do them, i.e. make sure that you understand completely all of the sentences in the drills. They are designed not only to help you learn the new vocabulary but to review the old vocabulary as well.

Grammar: There will be no grammar explanations given during class time. I expect you to prepare the grammar by actively reading the explanation, memorizing material in charts and preparing drills assigned. One of the best ways to check if you have understood the grammar is to read the examples given and make sure you understand them. If after preparing in this way you still have questions you may ask them before or at the beginning of class.

Class time is short so we need to spend it doing activities that will help you internalize and learn to actively use the vocabulary and grammatical structures we are studying.

How to do well in this class:

As in Arabic 101, **this class is a group effort!** We can make much more progress as a class than as individuals by creating an Arabic-speaking community of which you will be a fully participating member. We will continue to work in small groups in class, and you are encouraged to continue to do so outside of class as well.

What to focus on:

Vocabulary: As we advance towards an intermediate level in Arabic this semester, keeping up with vocabulary will be your most important task. We will work on this both in and outside of class.

Personalize vocabulary. Make words relevant by thinking of what you can say about yourself with them. This will help you learn faster, and make the words stick.

Homework: You will notice that homework this semester will usually consist of only a couple of drills (remember the long list in *Alif Baa!*) The difference will be that I expect you to put **more effort** into each drill: concentrate on what you are doing, and make sure you understand each of the sentences. Homework is your opportunity to review old vocabulary, practice new vocabulary, and try out new structures that we are learning. Remember that you will never be penalized for a mistake that you make when trying something new with Arabic.

Remember to **study out loud**. The only way to train your brain and your mouth to speak this language is by doing. Read the drills aloud as you do the homework. Also, remember to **listen** to the new vocabulary, texts, and conjugation patterns and **repeat** what you hear.

We will continue to work on developing reading skills and strategies this semester. **Guessing skills** remain important. Try to use the context to guess words before looking them up. For every word you can guess, you improve your vocabulary retention too.

Arabic Only: This semester our goal is to be speaking Arabic only before the end of the semester. We will start working towards this goal right away, so always be asking yourself: can I say this in Arabic? Try to speak Arabic as much as you can in class, including during group activities, greet your classmates in Arabic, and so forth. Think about the new vocabulary and grammar that we are learning and what you can do to activate it.

أهلاً وسهلاً ومرحباً بكم
وفصل دراسي سعيد إن شاء الله