

ARAB 101 Elementary Arabic

Fall 2015

MW 2:30-3:20 p.m. and TTh 1:40-2:55 p.m.

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Course Description

Ahlan wa Sahlan, welcome to Arabic 101. This is the first semester of Arabic at Oxford College of Emory University. You will be introduced to Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and to cultures of the Arabic-speaking world. Some colloquial Egyptian Arabic will complement your studies. This course will use a number of different instructional methods such as lecture, discussion, exercises and communicative language activities. For the most part, however, we will spend class time on practicing and putting to use the knowledge of Arabic vocabulary and grammar you will have acquired in advance outside of class. This means that you will be expected to spend much time studying for this course at home alone and with your peers so that you can actively participate in class. Be aware that this requires commitments of your time and energy as the study of Arabic is challenging, but also highly rewarding.

Course Objectives

By the end of Arabic 101 you will, *in-shaa'a-llah*:

1. have mastered the Arabic alphabet and sound system, be able to distinguish and pronounce all Arabic sounds, and write accurately from dictation;
2. initiate social interactions, ask for basic information, and be aware of basic cultural aspects of social interaction in the Arab world;
3. be able to talk about yourself, your education, and your family with any native speaker of Arabic;
4. comprehend simple written texts on familiar topics;
5. comprehend simple audio/visual texts on familiar topics;
6. be able to compose simple paragraphs about yourself;
7. be familiar with some of the differences between formal and spoken Arabic.

Course Materials (available at the campus book store)

- 1) Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, Abbas Al-Tonsi, *Alif Baa: An Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*, third edition, Georgetown University Press, 2010.
- 2) Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, Abbas Al-Tonsi, *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part One*, third edition, Georgetown University Press, 2011.
- 3) Recommended dictionary: *The Hans-Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. Spoken Languages Services. By Hans Wehr, J. Milton Cowan (Editor). Available, e.g., at amazon.com.

Online Resources

Companion Websites: Both textbooks (*Alif Baa* and *Al-Kitaab*) come with a companion website that you will use every night while studying with these texts. In order to work with *Alif Baa* (our textbook for the first six weeks) you must sign up for access to the companion website (www.alkitaabtextbook.com). This requires a “book key” that must be purchased online from the companion website. Once you have access to the companion website, you can sign up for our course (Arabic 101, *Alif Baa*, 3rd ed.) using the course code **MJCP848**. (Additional registration information can be found on our Bb site.) Signing up for our course on the companion website allows me to keep up with your progress through the book.

Blackboard (Bb): This course will involve using the online communication tools on Blackboard as well as readings, documents, and exercises located there. You would do well to acquaint yourself with Blackboard’s features and different usages and use them as frequent points of entry and exploration around many of the issues we will be discussing as well as in preparation for the assignments.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance and Participation (25%)

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. My expectations of professionalism extend, of course, to classroom etiquette. This includes such behavior as arriving on time, staying in the classroom until an official break or the end of the class period, packing up only when class has finished, and using a computer only for class purposes. You must not use cell phones and other wireless devices during class. If you use your phone, let’s say, to tweet or to check the stock market, or if your phone goes off during class, you will be counted as absent for that day. Absence, however, does not absolve one from homework or preparing for the following class. Repeated lack of preparation for class will result in loss of the privilege to participate in class activities and group work. Finally, your grade for class participation will include “comprehensive interviews” for which you will meet with me outside of regular class time a few times during the semester. You will be notified at least a week in advance of the time for the interviews.

2. Homework Assignments (25%)

For every class meeting you should expect to spend at least three hours outside of class on review and preparation. There will be daily written assignments. You will complete some of the homework assignments on the companion websites. Other assignments have to be written out on paper and handed in at the beginning of class on the day designated in the periodic schedules.

Late homework assignments may be checked but will not be given credit. You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together, with the stipulation that each student must participate fully in doing the work and must submit her/his own individual papers. Remember that the honor code is in effect in this class. Submitting work that is not your own, or

that you did not participate fully in doing, is a violation of that code. If you have any questions about the honor code, please ask.

Please hand in homework written out clearly on a separate sheet of paper; double space your homework to allow for comments and feedback; pages Xeroxed out of the book will not be accepted. Should you use more than one sheet of paper for your homework, please staple them before turning them in. 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. It is important to follow up on my comments on your homework, and it is your responsibility to come to my office hours or make an appointment to see me when needed.

3. Quizzes and Presentations (35%)

There will be several short quizzes (30-40 minutes each) and 2-3 oral presentations (some in groups). You will be informed of the dates of these quizzes and presentations at least a week in advance. At the end of the semester, you will prepare one skit or presentation (10 minutes) with a partner. The project must be submitted on tape/DVD to be presented on the last day of class.

4. Final Examination (15%)

The final examination will be comprehensive and will test all the skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The date of the final exam is **Monday, December 14 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)**.

5. Extra Credit Option: Homework Corrections

Once we start working with *Al-Kitaab* (around week 6 of the semester), many mistakes on the homework will not be corrected but will be circled or underlined and marked with a special correction code (see Bb). When you get back your homework assignments, you should always go over them and evaluate your performance and identify points for further review. In addition, you will have the option to correct the mistakes (using a different color ink or pencil) on the original assignment and then **resubmit it the next day for one additional point** on the assignment.

Most important: Remember to have fun!