

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*, second edition, Georgetown University Press, 2004. This book comes with DVDs that you will use every night. We will use this text for the first month.

2) 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. We will use this text after finishing *Alif Baa*, beginning in early October. In Arabic 101 we will cover the first four chapters of this book. The rest of the book will be covered in the next classes.

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.

Blackboard

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.

Supplemental Instruction

This semester Hamad Al-Helal will facilitate weekly SI sessions for our Arabic class. What happens in the SI sessions is confidential and Hamad does not report back to me who attends. I strongly encourage you to attend these sessions although you are not required to do so. The SI sessions are meant help students on all skill levels to discuss particularly important concepts and structures, to devise effective study strategies, and to provide you with additional opportunities to actualize what you learn at home and in class.

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, including the use of cell phones 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 absent for that day as well. 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 two to three "comprehensive interviews" for which you will meet with me outside of regular class time. 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 due 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; 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 (15-20 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 (Monday, December 7, 2009).

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 **Thursday, Dec. 10 (7:00-10:00 p.m.)**.

5. Extra Credit Option: Stuff I Found (BB)

Our Blackboard page contains a blog ("Stuff I Found") that gives you the opportunity to present and share anything interesting concerning Arabic language and culture that you may find outside of class. The blog function also gives you an option to comment on your peers' postings.

Most importantly: Remember to have fun!