

4272 ARAB_OX 101 Elementary Arabic 10A
Fall 2007
MWF 10:40-11:30 and Th 11:30-12:45

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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*, 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 callum al-cArabiyya: 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.

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 or spokenlanguage.com.

Blackboard

This course will involve using the online communication tools on Blackboard as well as readings and documents 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 all classes throughout the semester and arrive to class on time.

You must come prepared to participate fully in class activities. This means listening to DVDs and online materials and learning new vocabulary and structure so that you can **actively** use them in class.

2. Homework Assignments (25%)

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. Homework will be graded on a range of 1-3, three being the best possible. 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.

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 **Tuesday, December 18**. The room is to be announced.

Most importantly: Remember to have fun!

Schedule for the first two weeks (*Alif Baa*)

- Wednesday 8/29:** **In class:** Introduction to the course and each other.
- Thursday 8/30:** **In class:** Practice the letters and sounds of the Arabic alphabet
Homework: Buy *Alif Baa* and read Preface pp. vii-x and Introduction pp.1-6. Read all the letters in the introduction section and listen to them on the DVD.
- Friday 8/31:** **In class:** Practice the greetings on the DVD (Dialogue: “Saying Hello”) and transliteration.
Homework: Study the transliteration chart on p.7. Read Culture section “Saying Hello” p.26 and listen to it on the DVD.
- Monday 9/3:** **Labor Day – No Class**
- Wednesday 9/5:** Unit One
In class: Dialogue “Ahlan wa Sahlan”
Homework: Read, listen, and write pages 9-17 (until end of drill 4), hand in drills 1, 2, 3, 4. Review Culture “Saying Hello” on p.26 and DVD.
- Thursday 9/6:** Unit One
In class: Drills 5, 6, 10, 13, 14.
Homework: Read, listen, and write pages 17-27, hand in drills 7, 8, 9, 11, 12
- Friday 9/7:** Unit Two
In class: “Arabic dialects” on DVD and drill 6
Homework: Read, listen and write pages 28-35 (until sukuun), hand in drills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Monday 9/9:** Unit Two
In class: Drills 9 and 12, and dialogue “*HaDritik min maSr?*” on DVD
Homework: Read, listen and write pages 35-39, hand in drills 7, 8, 10, 11. Study the vocabulary on p. 38 and listen to the vocabulary section on the DVD.
- Wednesday 9/12:** Unit Three
In class: Drills 6 and 9 and practice the vocabulary.
Homework: Read, listen, and write pages 40-50, hand in drills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.
- Thursday 9/13:** Unit Four
In class: Dialogues from unit 3 on DVD “*Izzay HaDritik?*” and “*SabaaH il-kheer!*”; Drill 6.
Homework: Read, listen, and write pp. 51-57, hand in drills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Friday 9/14:** Unit Four and quiz in units 1-3
In class: Dialogues “*izzayyik?*” and “*Al-Hamdu Lillah.*”
Homework: Quiz in Units 1-3