

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2016- 2017 ARAB 111 X01: Beginners' Arabic I
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Iman Mersal
Office: Old Arts 242C
E-mail: imersal@ualberta.ca

Time: Tues & Thurs from 5:00-7.25 PM.
Place: HC 2 26

Office Hours:
Monday 11:00 to 12:00 AM & Tuesday
3:00 to 4:00 PM or by appointment.

Course Prerequisite: None.

ARAB 111 X01 is intended for “heritage” students who may have limited familiarity with the spoken language, but who cannot read or write, or who have limited background in grammar and other key concepts about Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

Students who can read and write MSA and have a fair knowledge of grammar are encouraged to write a placement test so that they can register in ARAB 112 or a higher level.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

Arab 111 aims at building basic skills in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), the language read and understood by educated Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula to Morocco. The course teaches you simple conversation skills, which will help you to interact with Arabic speakers, and help you to teach yourself Arabic beyond the scope of the classroom. There will be five hours of instruction per week, organized by systematic instruction and drills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

During this term, we will cover the **introductory book**, *Alif Baa* (including the Arabic alphabet, diacritical marks, and speech sounds), and **five lessons** in *al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*. These lessons aim to create a bridge between classroom and real life situations. Each lesson includes vocabulary, grammar, drills, and video examples of conversational situations.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to master knowledge of the Arabic Alphabet, different types of structural sentences, reading simple MSA texts, advertisements, and news items.

In addition, students should be able to :

- Introduce themselves and communicate where they are from, where they live, what are they studying, and what are their hobbies, and ask their peers questions to obtain reciprocal information.
- Describe family members and friends, talk about seasons and studies, provide some basic information about Arab countries, and be able to write a simple paragraph about one of the basic topics studied.

Texts:

1. Kristen Brustad, et al. *Alif Baa*. Georgetown University Press, 3rd Edition, 2010.
2. Kristen Brustad, et al. *al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*. Georgetown University Press, 3rd Edition, 2011.
3. Additional handouts will be distributed from time to time to provide additional examples and explanations of textbook materials.

Course Schedule(*):

| | Tuesday | Thursday | Topic |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Week 1 | | 1-Sep | Introduction |
| Week 2 | 6-Sep | 8-Sep | Arabic alphabet |
| Week 3 | 13-Sep | 15-Sep | Alphabet, continued |
| Week 4 | 20-Sep | 22-Sep | Alphabet, continued |

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Week 5 | 27-Sep | 29-Sep | Lesson 1 |
| Week 6 | 4-Oct | 6-Oct | Lesson 1 & Quiz #1 on Oct 6th (10%) and (calligraphy workshop with the calligrapher Najm Altamimi) |
| Week 7 | 11-Oct | 13-Oct | Lesson 2 |
| Week 8 | 18-Oct | 20-Oct | Lesson 3 |
| Week 9 | 25- Oct | 27- Oct | Lesson 4 |
| Week 10 | 1-Nov | 3-Nov | Review on Nov 1 st / Quiz # 2 on Nov 3d (15%) (Arabic music lecture with our guest speaker Dr. Michael Frishkopf) |
| Week 11 | 8-Nov | 10-Nov | <i>no classes</i> |
| Week 12 | 15-Nov | 17-Nov | Oral quiz on Nov 15/17 (10%) |
| Week 13 | 22-Nov | 24-Nov | Lesson 5 Review |
| Week 14 | 29- Nov | 1-Dec | Review on Nov 29th and Class skit on Dec 1 st (5%) |
| Week 15 | 6-Dec | | Final Exam on Dec 6th (30%) |

(*) Instructor may readjust this schedule if needed according to class situation and level.

(**) *All evening courses have the final exam scheduled in the last class. The exam does not appear on students' final exam schedule available through Bear Tracks.*

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2016-2017 academic year can be found at the following site: <http://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2015-Winter-2016-Exam-Planner.aspx>

| Activity | % |
|---|----------|
| Quiz #1 on Oct 6 th | 10% |
| Quiz #2 on Nov 3d | 15% |
| Oral Quiz on Nov 15-17 | 10% |
| Class skit on Dec 1 st | 5 % |
| Final Exam on Dec 6 th | 30 % |
| Homework (due every Thursday) | 15 % |
| Attendance (5%), participation (8%) and movie review (2%) | 15 % |
| Total | 100% |

Final Exam Information:

Dec 6th, 2016 @5:00 pm, H C 2-26.

Date of Deferred Final Exam(if applicable):

Thursday, December 9th, 2015 in the instructor's office.

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

- Homework is given each class and is due every Thursday.
- Homework is marked according to completion and self correction of assigned drills, not the number of mistakes made.
- It is the student's responsibility to recover missed assignments in case of absence.
- ***An absence is not an excuse for not being tested on what you have missed.***
- **Excused absence does not mean an automatic excused "homework extension"**: if the absence is on a Thursday (day of h.w. submission) the student should submit the h.w. to the instructor by e-mail.
- Participation in class includes taking part in class/group activities and discussions, answering the instructor's questions, **preparing** for the assigned class material prior to the lesson (watching the DVD, reading vocabulary, etc), and exhibiting a positive attitude in class with respect to material, time, peers, instructor.
- We will review class material prior to each quiz/test/exam.
- **Class skit** : each student will prepare and deliver a 2- 4 minute presentation (working in groups TBA in class) based on proposed topics (discussed in class in advance). While the presentation is a group project, grades will be given individually (a grading rubric will be provided prior to the presentations).
- **Oral quiz** : given individually or in pairs (details about quiz topics will be provided in advance).
- Grading of the oral component is based on the student's level in comprehension, self expression in MSA, use of formal structures, and avoiding colloquial language.
- Movie review: there will be three dates for the showing of an Arabic movie series. Students should attend at least one of them and submit a one page review of the movie the next class.
- **Note: additional short written or oral tests/quizzes may be conducted in class (with or without previous notice) for evaluation/assessment purpose and may count towards class activities.**

Policy for Late Assignments:

- Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension **just two times** throughout the course with no penalty.
- Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time, **unexcused** late assignments will not be given any marks. No third excuse will be granted.
- Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students

are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#) .

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, “attendance and participation” means attending each class, from the beginning to the end, paying attention to the instructor, and participating fully in all class activities.

Regular attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences and lateness will negatively impact your grade. If absence is due to severe illness or any other considerable reason, student should inform the instructor **before** the beginning of class (even by e-mail). **Unexcused Tardiness or leaving the class early is counted as attending only half of the class.** No excuse will be accepted if the instructor is not informed before class, unless in case of emergency. The instructor may accept reasonable excuse for absence with no penalty **twice** throughout the course, otherwise frequent excused absences (with no emergency reasons) will impact your grade.

In case of unexcused and unjustified absence from test and/or exam, the instructor may not accept to rescheduling.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student’s level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

| Descriptor | Letter Grade | Grade Point | % |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---|
|------------|--------------|-------------|---|

| | | Value | |
|--|-----------|-------|---------------|
| <p>Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p> | A+ | 4.0 | 97-100 |
| | A | 4.0 | 93-96 |
| | A- | 3.7 | 90-92 |
| <p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p> | B+ | 3.3 | 87-89 |
| | B | 3.0 | 83-86 |
| | B- | 2.7 | 80-82 |
| <p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p> | C+ | 2.3 | 77-79 |
| | C | 2.0 | 73-76 |
| | C- | 1.7 | 70-72 |
| <p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p> | D+ | 1.3 | 65-69 |
| | D | 1.0 | 60-64 |
| <p>Failure.</p> | F | 0.0 | 0-59 |