

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

**2016- 2017 ARAB 111 X02: Beginners' Arabic I**  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Bashair Alibrahim

Time: Tues & Thurs from 5:00-7.25 PM.

Office: Old Arts 242-A

Place: HC 2 29

E-mail: bashair@ualberta.ca

Office Hours: Thu 3.30-4.30 PM and Wed 1-2 PM or by  
appointment

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**Course Prerequisite: None.**

**ARAB 111** is an introduction to pronunciation, reading, writing, and conversation. Note: not to be taken by students with native or near native proficiency, or Arabic 35 or its equivalents in Canada and other countries. Not open to students with credit in ARAB 100.

This section (X02) is intended for “non-heritage” students who do not have any background in Arabic.

Students who can read/write fairly 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:**

This course 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 course. There will be five hours of instruction per week.

During this term, the course will cover the **introductory book**, *Alif Baa* (including the Arabic alphabet, diacritical marks, and speech sounds), and **five lessons** in *al-KitaabfiTa`alumat`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*. Each lesson includes vocabulary, grammar, drills, and video examples of conversation situations.

By the end of the semester, in addition to knowing the Arabic Alphabet and being able to read brief MSA texts, ads, news items, etc, students should be able to :

- Introduce themselves and communicate where they are from, where do they live, what are they studying, what they like/do not like to do and ask their peers questions regarding reciprocal information, describe family members and friends, talk about what they like/dislike, talk about seasons, studies, give some basic information about themselves, their friends and extended family members, write a very simple paragraph about one of the basic topics studied.

**Texts:**

1. Kristen Brustad, et al. *AlifBaa*. Georgetown University Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2010.
2. Kristen Brustad, et al. *al-KitaabfiTa`alumat`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*. Georgetown University Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2011.
3. Additional handouts will be distributed from time to time to provide additional examples and explanations of textbook materials.

**Course Schedule(\*):**

	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Topic</b>
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	Alphabet, continued
Week 6	4-Oct	6-Oct	Alphabet, continued & <b>Quiz #1 on Oct 6(10%)</b> (calligraphy workshop with the calligrapher <b>Najm Altamimi</b> )
Week 7	11-Oct	13-Oct	Lesson 1
Week 8	18-Oct	20-Oct	Lesson 2
Week 9	25- Oct	27- Oct	Lesson 3
Week 10	1-Nov	3-Nov	Lesson 4 + Review / <b>Quiz # 2 on Nov 3 (15%)</b>
Week 11	8-Nov	10-Nov	<i>no classes</i>
Week 12	15-Nov	17-Nov	<b>Oral quiz on Nov 15/17 (10%)</b>
Week 13	22-Nov	24-Nov	Lesson 5

Week 14	29- Nov	1-Dec	Lesson 5 + Review + <b>Class skit</b> on 1 Dec (5%) - <b>Final Exam on Dec 6th</b> (30%)
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(\*) Instructor may readjust this schedule if needed according to class progress and level.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

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

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

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):**

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 in the instructor’s office.

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

- Homework is given each class but is due every Thursday.
- Homework is marked regarding the completion and self correction of assigned drills.
- It’s the student’s responsibility to recover the missed assignments in case of their absence.
- Participation in class includes positive participation in class/group activities, positive participation in class discussions, answering the instructor’s questions, accomplishing individual class drills, show positive **preparation** of the assigned class material to be prepared at home prior to the lesson (listening to DVD, preparing vocab., etc), positive attitude in class in respect of material, time, peers, instructor, etc.
- A quick material review will be done prior to each Quiz/test/exam.
- Class skit: preparation and delivery of a 2-4 minutes presentation for each student (in groups TBA in class) based on proposed topics (discussed in class before the skit). It’s a group work, however, grades will be given on pronunciation according to each student’s level (a grading rubric will be given prior to the presentations).
- Oral quiz: individually and/or pair work partly prepared before the quiz (dialogue, etc) and the rest is based on general topics from the course including (reading, comprehension questions, grammar questions, dictation, etc). (Details about topics

- proposed will be provided in class before the quiz).
- Grading of the oral component is based on the student's level of comprehension, self expression with MSA, use of formal structures, avoiding slang/colloquial language, near-fluency or fluency of the oral.
  - Movie review: there will be three dates of screening within the Arabic movie series. Students should attend at least one of three movies and hand a one page review of the movie in English the next class (dates and posters are posted on e-class).
  - **Note: additional written or oral very short tests/quizzes might be done in class (with or without previous notice) for evaluation/assessment purposes, 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**, Students are expected to attend class regularly, hand in assignments on time, and participate actively in the written and oral drills in the classroom.

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).

**Tardiness** or early leaving the class is counted as an unexcused absence.

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 reschedule this particular exam.**

***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](mailto: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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	A+	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	A	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	A-	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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.	B+	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	B	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	B-	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	C+	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	C	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	C-	1.7	<b>70-72</b>

<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>