

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2017- 2018 ARAB 111 X01: Beginners' Arabic I
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Mai Hussein
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Office Hours: TBD

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

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 (**ARAB 111 X01**) is intended for “non-heritage” students who do not have any background in Arabic.

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) should enroll in **ARAB 113 X01 "for heritage learners" section.**

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, ARAB 114 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 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, the course 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*. 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. *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	5- Sep	7- Sep	Introduction
Week 2	12- Sep	14- Sep	Arabic alphabet
Week 3	19- Sep	21- Sep	Alphabet, continued
Week 4	26- Sep	28- Sep	Alphabet, continued

Week 5	3- Oct	5- Oct	Alphabet, continued
Week 6	10- Oct	12- Oct	Alphabet, continued & Quiz #1 on Oct 12 (10%) (followed by calligraphy workshop with the calligrapher Najm Altamimi)
Week 7	17- Oct	19- Oct	Lesson 1
Week 8	24- Oct	26- Oct	Lesson 2
Week 9	31- Oct	2- Nov	Lesson 3
Week 10	7- Nov	9- Nov	Lesson 4 & Review on Nov 7 / Quiz # 2 on Nov 9 (15%).
Week 11	<i>14- Nov</i>	<i>16- Nov</i>	<i>no classes</i>
Week 12	21- Nov	23- Nov	Oral quiz on Nov 21 & Nov 23 (15%)
Week 13	28- Nov	30- Nov	Lesson 5 on Nov 28 & Review on Nov 30
Week 14	5- Dec	7- Dec	Class skit on Dec 5 (5%), and Final Exam (**) on Dec 7 (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:

<https://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Activity

%

Homework (due every Thursday)	10%
Attendance (5%), participation (5%) and movie review (5%)	15 %
Quiz #1 on Oct 12	10%
Quiz #2 on Nov 9	15%

Oral Quiz on Nov 23	15%
Class skit on Dec 5	5%
Final Exam on Dec 7	30 %

Final Exam Information:

Dec 7th, 2017 @5:00 pm, HC 2-26.

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Friday, December 15, 2017 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 amount/type of mistakes made.
- It is the student's responsibility to recover missed assignments and lessons in case of absence.
- ***An absence is not an excuse for not being tested on some concepts*** or being exempted from them.
- **Excused absence does not mean an automatic "excused h.w. extension"** if the absence is on a Thursday (day of h.w. submission). Student should find a way to submit the h.w. by e-mail, previously to the instructor or with a friend... otherwise ANOTHER "excused extension" for the h.w. might be granted if the student is not able to do any of this.
- 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** : 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** : 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 in comprehension, self-expression with MSA, use of formal structures, avoiding slang/colloquial language, near-fluency or fluency of the oral based on a prior background.
- **Movie review**: there will be three dates of screening of an Arabic movie. Students are required to attend at least one of three movies and hand a one page review of the movie the next class (dates and posters TBA).
- **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 excuse will be granted and no extension will be granted if there isn't any excuse or not a reasonable one.
- 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 www.governance.ualberta.ca) 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 [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) 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, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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 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; 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