

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**ARABIC 211 - Intermediate Arabic I  
2017-2018 (Fall Term)**

**Instructor: Iman Mersal**

**Time: Mondays, 1:00PM -1:50 PM  
Tues & Thurs, 12:30-1:50 PM**

**Place: T1 104  
Place: T1 105**

**Office: Arts 242C**

**Fax: 492-9106**

**E-mail: imersal@ualberta.ca**

**Office Hours: Mon 11:00 AM – 12:00 Am & Tuesday  
3:00 to 4:00 Pm or by appointment**

**Course Prerequisite:** Arabic 112 or consent of department. Students who have not taken Arabic 112 should make sure they possess a firm understanding and practical mastery of lessons 1-13 in Al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al` Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part One (as well as all material in the introductory book Alif Baa, available for your perusal in the SUB bookstore).

ARAB 211 is an intermediate-level course, aiming to develop students' skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), as well as introducing them to contemporary Arab culture.

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

Yes     No, not needed, no such projects involved

Community Service Learning component

Required    Optional     None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material

Exam registry – Students' Union

[http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services\\_and\\_businesses/services/infolink/exams](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/infolink/exams)

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 to develop your skills in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), the language read and understood by educated Arabs from Iraq to Morocco, through systematic instruction and drills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There will be four hours of instruction per week.

During this term, we will cover lessons 1- 6 from Al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Two. In each lesson you will be introduced to new grammatical and structural concepts, as well as vocabulary lists, in order to be able to read and understand content. After reading this content, you will read, understand, summarize and discuss the ideas in each lesson. You will be asked to select a theme related to each lesson and write a short article about it. Selected readings in modern Arabic literature and culture topics will be provided for reading, discussion, and translation. These materials will be available on eClass. Students will be introduced to Arab Cinema, Arabic poetry, narrative prose, and proverbs, as a means of building vocabulary and in order to become familiar with Arab culture.

By the end of this course, you are expected to be able to discuss different experiences, including travel, migration, and career, as well as to be able to present simple topics concerning Arab culture, such as arts, famous figures, women's social positions, and modern historical events. Based on lectures, discussions, and the writing assignments that follow them, you will be able to articulate your ideas clearly in writing, using a variety of structures and expressions.

**Texts:**

**Required books:**

1. Kristen Brustad, et al. Al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Two. Georgetown University Press, Third Edition, 2013.
2. Hans Wehr. A Dictionary for Modern Written Arabic. Spoken Languages Services, various editions (Arabic-English dictionary).

**Course Schedule:**

	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Lessons</b>
Week 1		September 5	September 7	Introduction & <b>Language activities</b>
Week 2	September 11	September 12	September 14	<b>Language activities &amp; Lesson 1</b>
Week 3	September 18	September 19	September 21	Lesson 1 & 2
Week 4	September 25	September 26	September 28	Lesson 2
Week 5	October 2	October 3	<b>October 5 Arab Film</b>	Lesson 3 & <b>Arab Film</b>
Week 6	October 9 No Class	October 10 Review	October 12 <b>Midterm, (20%)</b>	<b>October 12 Midterm, (20%)</b>

Week 7	October 16	October 17	October 19	Lesson 3 & 4
Week 8	October 23	October 24	October 26 <b>Arabic Proverbs</b>	Lesson 4 & <b>Arabic Proverbs</b>
Week 9	October 30	October 31	November 2	Lesson 4 & 5
Week 10	November 6 <b>Halloween</b>	November 7	November 9	<b>Halloween party in Arabic &amp; Lesson 5</b>
Week 11	November 13	November 14	November 16	Reading Week - No Classes 😊
Week 12	November 20	November 21	November 23 <b>Introduction to Arabic Poetry</b>	Lesson 5 & <b>Introduction to Arabic Poetry</b>
Week 13	November 27	November 28	November 30	Lesson 6
Week 14	December 4 <b>Review</b>	December 5 <b>Class presentations</b>	December 7 <b>Class presentations</b>	Review & <b>Class presentations</b>

(\*) *Instructor may readjust this schedule if needed according to class situation and level.  
Final exam: (Tuesday 19-Dec-2017, @ 2:00 p.m.)*

**Grade Distribution** (see “Explanatory Notes”):  
*Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>*

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

Activity	%
One midterm (October 12)	20%
Homework assignments (due every Thursday)	15%
Attendance, participation, and oral activities	10%
Three writing assignments (Arab Film review due Oct 19 - Arabic - Proverbs translation due Nov 2 - Arabic Poet biography & poem due Nov 30)	15%

Class presentations (Dec 5 and 7 )	5%
Final Exam (Tuesday 19-Dec - 2017, @ 2:00 p.m.)	35%
Total	100%

***Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):  
Wednesday, January 10 - 2018 in the instructor's office.***

***Explanatory Notes on Textbook 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 exam.

***Writing assignments:***

- ***Arab Film review (400 words), due Oct 19.***
- ***Arabic Proverbs, meaning and translation (200 words), due Nov 2.***
- ***Arabic Poet biography and poem (500 words), due Nov 30.***

**Class presentation:** 10 - 12 minute oral presentation in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) on a topic of the student's choice, December 5 & 7 (5%)

- Grading of the presentation is based on the student's self expression with MSA, use of formal structures, avoiding slang/colloquial language.

***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 which 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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels 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 direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.
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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 and Accountability](#) 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).

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 a reasonable excuse for absence with no penalty twice throughout the course, otherwise frequent excused/unexcused 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.

- Please check your emails regularly for any update regarding class (assignments, test dates, cancellation, etc.)

- In case of unforeseen circumstances that may lead to class cancellation, students will be notified in advance during previous classes or by e-mail (in case of an emergency). So please do NOT leave class before consulting your emails.

***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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	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>
Failure.	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>