

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**ARAB 212 B1 (Winter Term 2020):
Intermediate Arabic II**

Instructor: Iman Mersal
Tues & Thurs, 12:30-1:50 PM
Office: Arts 242C
Fax: 492-9106

Place: HC 1 15

E-mail: imersal@ualberta.ca
Course Website: eClass

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:
<http://bit.ly/MLCS-major>

Course Prerequisites: ARAB 211 (or department consent)

Students who have not taken Arabic 211 should ensure they possess a firm understanding and practical mastery of:

- All material in the introductory book *Alif Baa*, and in *Al-Kitaab fii Ta' allum al-' Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*.
- Lessons 1-6 in *Al-Kitaab fii Ta' allum al-' Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Two* (available for your perusal in the SUB bookstore).

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course. ARAB 212 is an intermediate-level course, aiming to develop your 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.? *Not needed*
 - Community Service Learning component: *None*
 - Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material: *Exam registry – Students' Union*
<https://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
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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, speaking, and translating. There will be four hours of instruction per week.

During this term, we will cover lessons 7 - 10 from *Al-Kitaab fii Ta' allum 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 to write a short article about it. Selected readings in modern Arabic literature and cultural topics will be provided for reading, discussion, and translation. The course will include three lectures on Arabic cinema, modern narrative, and translation, based on watching an Arab film online, reading a 15 page story, “Al-Khoutoba”, by Baha Taher, and translating 750 words from English to Arabic from a selected article. These materials will be available on eClass.

By the end of this course, you are expected to be able to discuss different experiences, including travel, migration, and dreams for future, as well as to be able to present simple topics concerning Arab culture and society, such as arts, modern Arab narratives, women’s social positions, poverty, and wars. 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.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be achieved from a combination of in-class conversations, group activities, formal lectures, assigned readings, audiovisual materials, and homework. There will be five hours of instruction per week, organized by systematic instruction and drills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Texts:

Required books:

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

Selected literary readings available in eClass:

- Various articles, caricatures, and poems.
- “Al-Khoutouba”, by Baha Taher (15 pages).
- Three Arab films from Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine (Available on eClass)

Additional Course Fees: No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

- First Day of Class: January 7, 2020.
- Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020.
- 50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020.
- Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020
- Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020.
- Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020.

Final Exam Date: (16-Apr-2020 (Thursday) @ 9:00 a.m.). Place: HC 1 15

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:

<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Course Schedule (*):

	Tues	Thurs	Topic
Week 1	Jan 07	Jan 09	Introduction & Review
Week 2	Jan 14	Jan 16	Lesson 7
Week 3	Jan 21	Jan 23	Lesson 7 & 8
Week 4	Jan 28	Jan 30	Lesson 8
Week 5	Feb 04	Feb 06	Arab film on Feb 4 and Lesson 9
Week 6	Feb 11	Feb 13	Review for midterm (Feb 11) and midterm (Feb 13) (20%)
Week 7	Feb 18	Feb 20	Reading Week
Week 8	Feb 25	Feb 27	Lesson 9
Week 9	Mar 03	Mar 05	Translation on March 3 & Lesson 10
Week 10	Mar 10	Mar 12	Lesson 10
Week 11	Mar 17	Mar 19	Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature & Baha Taher (“Al-Khoutouba”).
Week 12	Mar 24	Mar 26	Cultural activities
Week 13	Mar 31	Apr 02	Student presentations (5%)
Week 14	Apr 07		Review for the final exam.

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

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Activity	%
Homework assignments (due every Thursday)	10%
Attendance, participation, and oral activities	15%
Midterm (February 13)	20%
Two writing assignments and one translation (dates below)	15%
Class presentation (March 31 April 02)	5%
Final Exam (April 16, 2020 (Thursday) @9:00 a.m.)	35%
Total	100%

Fall / Winter Exam Planner can be found at the following site:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

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 homework 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 (600 words), due February 11. (5%)
- Translation (750 words), due March 12. (5%)
- Modern Arabic Literature (800 words), due March 26. (5%)

Class presentation: 12 - 15 minutes oral presentation in Arabic Fusha on a topic of students' choice, March 31&April 02. (5%). Grading of the presentation is based on the student's self-expression with MSA, use of formal structures, and avoiding slang/colloquial language.

Required Notes:

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

Student Responsibilities:**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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

Language and Translation Courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behaviour.

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 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.
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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

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.

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 twice 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.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) web page.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) web page.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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”

<i>Descriptor</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Grade Point Value</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>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.</i>	<i>A+</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>97-100</i>
	<i>A</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>93-96</i>
	<i>A-</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>90-92</i>
<i>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.</i>	<i>B+</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>87-89</i>
	<i>B</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>83-86</i>
	<i>B-</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>80-82</i>
<i>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.</i>	<i>C+</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>77-79</i>
	<i>C</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>73-76</i>
	<i>C-</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>70-72</i>
<i>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.</i>	<i>D+</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>65-69</i>
	<i>D</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>60-64</i>
<i>Failure.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0-59</i>

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