Welcome to Intermediate Arabic!

Instructor: Ibrahim Sakaji Ph.D.
Class Meets: 8:10-9:55
Location: AND LL-1
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Office Hours: 7-8 by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course builds on Arabic 202 (prerequisite) and is designed to develop further your proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In order to do so, we will use a communicative, student-centered approach to learning Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). Students are required to have successfully completed Arabic 103 (or its equivalent) prior to registering. The course will continue to focus on MSA, the form of Arabic used in writing, as well as verbally in public or formal settings (journalism, public addresses, lectures, and television programs ranging from cartoons to the news). It will also give students greater familiarity with Arab culture and colloquial speech (specifically, Egyptian and Levantine Arabic).

In order to maximize your proficiency in Arabic, you will be expected to participate actively and to collaborate with your peers during each class meeting. While you are welcome to ask questions about the homework in class, class time will be used principally for practicing the assigned material. Please note: our textbook, *Al-Kitaab*, is designed with this approach in mind. It expects you, as do I, to put in 2-3 hours of preparation at home for every hour of class. Since our class meets for approximately 3.5 hours, this means that you should expect between 7-10 hours of homework per week.

*Al-Kitaab* will form the backbone of our learning; however, as part of my roles as facilitator, I may employ handouts, maps, forms, literature, videos, music, and the internet as supplements.

Our goals for the semester: in addition to learning more vocabulary and grammar, you should learn the months of the year, the parts of the body, numbers over 100, and colors. In terms of proficiency skills, you should learn how to make comparisons and statements, express similarity, use case endings in order to write and to read with greater understanding, express the actions of two people, as well as describe, connect, and transition between events.

Learning Approach and Environment

A communicative, task-based approach is used for language acquisition and development. Students will be expected to prepare their work prior to coming to class so that they may participate and apply the material in class. My role is to help facilitate the application of the prepared material. **You are more than welcome to speak to me at any point regarding any aspect of the course and your progress!** I am always happy to include ways to improve the course. We will often work in groups or perform an activity together so it is important that each student be prepared to do his or her part. Each of you will also be entrusted with the responsibility of teaching each other and of fostering an environment of tolerance and respect.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined as outlined below:

1. Attendance and Active Participation 15%
2. Homework 15%
3. Quizzes (2) 20%
4. Oral Proficiency Interview 10%
5. Tests (2) 20%
6. Final Exam (5/5/2009) 20%

Letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>89-88</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>87-83</td>
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<td>62-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-78</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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Please note these important dates:

- M, Jan 26: Last day to drop for 100% refund and no “W” recorded
- F, Mar 6: Last day to drop a spring class
- M, Apr 27: Last day of Arabic class
- T, April 28: Last day of spring classes
- M, May 4: **Final Exam** (Units 16-20) from 2:10 PM – 4:40 PM

The **final exam** will be on **Tuesday May 5 or Wednesday May 6** at 8.00 pm -10.30 will be comprehensive and will cover all of the material introduced throughout the course. It will also incorporate listening, reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar.

### Attendance and Active Participation

Attendance is crucial to learning a language and is **required by the Department**. Tardiness and early departures will also affect your learning and your grade. Unless there are urgent circumstances and arrangements have been made in advance, late work will be corrected but not given credit. Similarly, any quizzes or tests that are missed cannot be retaken. You are allowed three absences without penalty; however, work that is missed on those dates, including quizzes and tests, cannot be made up. More than three absences will result in a reduction of your attendance and participation grade according to the following scale: if your participation grade is an A, a 4th absence will drop it to a B, a 5th to a C, a 6th to a D, and 7 absences or more will result in a zero for participation. Four late arrivals and/or early departures will be equivalent to one absence.

Please note that these guidelines are in place to be fair to all students, to create a community of learners, and to emphasize the importance of active participation in allowing you to practice and to build your language skills. Such participation means that you have prepared the day’s assignment and are willing and able to work with your peers to contribute to their learning as well as yours.

### Homework

Homework assignments are to be completed legibly and turned in when due. You are expected to have prepared your work according to the [Weekly Schedule of Activities and Assignments](#) and before coming to each class. Late assignments will be corrected but not given credit, unless you have spoken to me beforehand. Kindly adhere to the following guidelines when completing homework assignments:

1. Please do not rip pages out of the texts and hand them in; these pages usually contain important information.
2. It is required that you copy the drills completely. Do not just write the missing answers.
3. Please write neatly using pencil or black or blue ink. If necessary, skip lines so that your writing is clear.
4. In addition to your name, always include the exercise, page number, and date for each assignment.

Homework that is illegible or that does not adhere to these guidelines will be given partial credit. Homework that is copied and that is not your own will receive no credit. You will have 10 homework assignments and these will be given a grade of check plus (2 points), check (1.5 points), or check minus (1 point). You should strive to make a check plus on each of your assignments. If you receive checks on all your homework you will end up with a 75. You will be expected to correct any homework and to resubmit it if it is below a check plus. **Homework is your direct engagement with the language and is one of the most important ways to learn; hence, you should make every effort to do your best on it.**

### Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes and tests must be taken as scheduled. No make-up quizzes or tests will be given unless arrangements are made prior to the scheduled test time. Please keep in mind that language learning is cumulative and that falling behind will very likely have an adverse impact on your progress. You will have two quizzes and two course exams.
Oral Proficiency Interview
The oral proficiency interview is a face-to-face structured conversation lasting anywhere between 10 to 20 minutes depending on the level of the person being tested. This test will be given during the last week of the semester but not during regular class time. I will provide you with a sign-up sheet to schedule the OPI.

Individual Project/Presentation
You may present any topic, in Arabic, related to any aspect of the Arab world, Arabs, or Arabic that is of interest to you. Feel free to consult me if you need ideas or would like to discuss your own. The presentation need not be longer than 5 minutes, and you are welcome to schedule it at any point during the course. This is an opportunity for you to teach your classmates about your topic, and hence, it should be clear enough for them to understand your main points (you may use handouts and visual aids, if you like).

Required Texts

Academic Integrity
All courses in the Department of Language and Foreign Studies adhere strictly to the Academic Integrity Code of American University. You will find it at the following website:
http://www.american.edu/handbook/policies_guidelines.htm#aic

Please note that getting outside help for the sake of understanding how to do an exercise is fine. Having someone do the work for you is not.

Academic and Disability Support Services
In addition to myself and the resources of the Department, a wide range of services is available to support you in every way throughout the semester. We are all here to help you, so never feel alone!

**Academic Support Center** (x3360, MGC 243) offers study skills workshops, individual instruction, tutor referrals, and services for students with learning disabilities. Writing support is available in the ASC Writing Lab or in the Writing Center, Battelle 228.

**Counseling Center** (x3500, MGC 214) offers counseling and consultations regarding personal concerns, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources.

**Disability Support Services** (x3315, MGC 206) offers technical and practical support and assistance with accommodations for students with physical, medical, or psychological disabilities. If you qualify for accommodations of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner with a letter from the Academic Support Center or Disability Support Services so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.

ننتمى لكم التوفيق والنجاح!

WE WISH YOU SUCCESS!