

# **Advanced Topics in Arabic: Lebanese Dialect ARBC 3050 Spring 2015**

Class: T/TH 12.30 - 1.50 LANG 215

Instructor: Dr. Caroline Najour

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Office: LANG 403 A

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 8.00 - 9.30 and by appointment

## **REQUIRED ONLINE TEXTBOOK**

Adnan, Haydar, Paula Haydar, and Nadine Sinno. *Haki bil Libnani: Lebanese Arabic Online Textbook*. Georgetown UP: Washington, DC

Instructions about purchasing the website access card are posted on blackboard.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, students will explore Lebanese dialect and culture. Students are expected to acquire extensive vocabulary, work on grammar and pronunciation in dialect, and familiarize themselves with cultural aspects and societal practices of the Levant. Students will also learn specific cultural expressions used in different situations and how to respond to them appropriately. This course also aims to develop students' listening and comprehension skills by using authentic listening material in the Lebanese dialect.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- a. Initiate and sustain short conversations in dialect on a number of personal and familiar topics.
- b. Pose questions using appropriate forms of address and in a culturally appropriate way.
- c. Understand and reply to ritualistic expressions appropriately.
- d. Narrate events using the past, present, and future tenses.
- e. Discuss a variety of Levantine cultural practices and understand their significance
- f. Recognize some Lebanese contemporary singers and performers.

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **Academic Honesty:**

- Do your own work. It is against the policy of this course to use an answer key or Google Translate, to enlist the help of a fluent Arabic speaker or to have your work checked by anyone other than your instructors before submitting it.
- Working on the homework with other classmates is allowed, but each student must submit to the instructor his or her own answers.

### **Homework:**

Assigned homework will be posted on blackboard and, unless otherwise noted, must be submitted before the following session.

### **Class conduct:**

Remember to greet the instructors and your classmates when you enter class. In Arab culture, you don't enter a room without greeting others. Also, you are expected to engage in small talk with your classmates while waiting for class to start.

Eating or chewing gum is not allowed, but feel free to bring coffee, water or soft drinks to class. Please keep your cell phones in silent mode and in your backpacks.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Blackboard and E-mail:**

For your success in this class be sure to **check blackboard and your email daily** as the instructor will share important information pertaining to class over the email.

This class relies heavily on blackboard where grades and assignments will be regularly posted.

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

### **Attendance, Participation and Preparation (20%) :**

- You are expected to attend all classes and to show up to class well prepared. Your grade for participation in class will account for 20 % of your final grade. Your daily attendance and participation grade will be on a scale from 1 to 5. It will be on

blackboard by 8 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, so make sure to check blackboard to see how well you are doing.

- Most of class time will be devoted to doing group or pair work. To participate actively and engage others with the material, you need to prepare well before class! If for any reason, you have been unable to prepare for class adequately, make sure to inform your instructor beforehand and she can arrange for you **to learn by listening that day**. Also, make sure you refrain from using English during group activities; just raise your hand when you need help.

- In case of absence, please inform your instructor **before not after the class you will be missing**. The grade for that day's participation will be "0." The lowest 3 grades for attendance and participation will not be counted when calculating the final grade at the end of the semester.

- Students are responsible for any class work, homework and for any announcement made during their absence.

- Attendance and participation grades **will be deducted for tardiness as follows:**

arrival during first 5 mins. of class = 1 Pt.

during first 10 mins. = 2 Pts.

during first 15 mins. = 3 Pts.

during first 20 mins. = 4 Pts

If you arrive more than 20 mins. late for class you will receive a "0" for that day's class participation

### **Homework Assignments (15%) :**

Homework assignments must be turned in before the beginning of class. Late homework assignments will not be accepted unless you have received an approval from the instructor prior to the the assignment's due date.

Homework assignments will be graded on a scale from 1 to 5. You will be graded on the overall quality of your work, and on the effort you put into the homework and not on the number of incorrect answers.

### **Biweekly Skits (25%):**

For this class, you will prepare a skit with a partner using dialect every two weeks. You are expected to use as many of the new vocabulary, grammatical constructs and ritualistic expressions as possible. Guidelines and rubric for skits are under "course documents" in blackboard.

**Cultural Blog Entries (15%):**

The class will agree on 5 cultural themes, and each student is expected to write a minimum of 300 word essay on one aspect of the theme in English. Guidelines and rubric for cultural blogs are under “course documents” in blackboard.

**Comments on classmates' blogs (5%):**

In order to create dialogue between the blog writers and their audience, each student is expected to post at least 2 long, thought out comments on other classmates' posts for each theme. The comments must be posted within one week from the deadline for posting the blogs and should be around 75 words each.

**Final exam (20%):**

The final exam will include both a written component and an improvised skit.

**Grade distribution:**

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 20 %

Homework: 15%

Biweekly Skits: 25%

Cultural Blog Entries: 15%

Comments on classmates' blogs: 5%

Final exam: 20%

**Grading Scale**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

**Office of the Registrar—Spring 2015 Registration Guide**

<http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide>

This is a link to important dates for adding, dropping, withdrawing, and so forth.

**Office of the Registrar— Spring 2015 Exam Schedule**

<http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring>

This is a link to the official schedule for final exams.

**Undergraduate Catalog**

<http://catalog.unt.edu/>

This is a link to the official catalog for all undergraduate students.

**UNT Policy Manual**

<http://policy.unt.edu/policy-by-number/1>

This is a link to the official policy manual for faculty and students.

**Disability Accommodation**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**[1] This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

