

Intermediate Arabic

ARBC 2050

Spring 2015

Class: T/TH 11.00 - 12.20 LANG 311

Instructor: Dr. Caroline Najour

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Office: LANG 403 A

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9.30 - 10.50 and by appointment

Required Textbook

Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al Tonsi. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya with DVDs: A Textbook for Intermediate Arabic*. Part Two. Third Edition. Washington, D.C. Georgetown University Press, 2013.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for students who have had the equivalent of three semesters of Arabic instruction and is a continuation of ARBC 2040. It aims at helping students reach the mid or high intermediate range. In this course, students are expected to acquire extensive vocabulary, work on sentence structure, grammar and pronunciation and develop an emergent ability to think at the paragraph level. The course aims to develop students' reading, writing, listening and comprehension skills by using authentic Arabic texts. Also, students will be exposed to the Shami dialect, which will be integrated with Modern Standard Arabic in the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

I. Listening:

Listen to 2- 5 minute authentic and created texts delivered in clear speech and normal speed about familiar topics. You will also be able to extract specific biographic details as well as prominent details in the listening text.

II. Speaking:

a. Initiate and sustain short conversations both in MSA and in shami with other learners and sympathetic native speakers on a number of personal and familiar topics.

- b. Communicate your basic needs and converse with locals on general topics using the Shami colloquial dialect.
- c. Give short 5- 10 minute presentations consisting of simple sentences linked with connectors.
- d. Narrate events using the past, present, and future tenses.

III. Reading:

- a. Read and understand page-long authentic texts on familiar and general topics and understand the main idea without referring to the dictionary.
- b. Employ your reading strategies and your knowledge of grammar and the root and pattern system along with the context to construct meaning.

IV. Writing:

- a. Write coherent paragraphs and short essays about personal and familiar topics using complex sentences.

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.

Language:

Please use only Arabic from the moment you enter class. English might be used sometimes to explain some grammar concepts, during translation exercises, or for a quick translation of a word. In all other instances, only Arabic should be used in class including when chatting with classmates before class starts. If you think you need to use English, ask for permission first. English could be used, however, during office hours and in communication via email. Points from class participation grades will be deducted for speaking in English in class.

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 (20 %) :

- It is our philosophy that new material will not be presented in class. Rather, you will prepare for it at home. Class time is reserved for the activation and practice of what you have studied and prepared at home. Expect to spend an average of 3 hours of learning new material, reviewing and writing homework at home for every class session. 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 must be double spaced, and **sheets of papers must be stapled**. Make sure you write the homework number. Points will be deducted when submitted work does not follow those guidelines.

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.

Quizzes (15%):

You will have several short vocab and grammar quizzes covering the material learned throughout the course. Dates for quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance.

Presentation (10%):

You are expected to give a 7 to 10 minutes long oral presentation in fuSha toward the end of the semester. The presentation will be on a topic of your choice; however, the topic should be approved by the instructor at least 3 days before the presentation.

Skits (15%):

For this class, you will prepare two skits with a partner using dialect. The first one is around the middle of the semester and will be at least three minutes long; it will make up 5 % of your grade. The second is due around the end of the semester and must be at least 6 minutes long; it will make up 10 % of your final grade.

Final exam (20%):

The final exam will include listening, reading, and writing parts in addition to sections on vocabulary and grammar.

Grade distribution:

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 20 %

Homework: 20%

Presentation: 10 %

quizzes: 15 %

skits: 15 %

Final: 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.