

# **Advanced Topics in Arabic: Immigration and Travel ARBC 3060 Fall 2015**

Class: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 - 3.20 pm in LANG 205  
Instructor: Caroline Najour  
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Office: LANG 401 L  
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 8:30 - 9:45 am and 1:00 - 1:45 pm  
Friday 8:30 - 9:45, and by appointment

Tutoring sessions in LANG 108 A  
M and F from 12am to 1 pm  
Tues from 1- 2 pm

## **Required Textbooks**

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 at least four semesters of Arabic instruction. It allows student to master vocabulary typical of immigration and travels and to develop critical reading skills as well as speed and accuracy in reading. The course will also expose students to authentic listening texts and will build their accuracy in listening comprehension. By the end of the semester, students are expected to give a 10 minute oral presentation on issues of travel or immigration as well as carry out a lengthy writing project. Also, students will continue to be exposed to the Shaami dialect, which will be integrated with MSA in this course.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

### I. Listening:

Listen to long authentic texts discussing culturally significant topics and delivered in clear speech and normal speed.

### II. Speaking:

Express opinions regarding matters of cultural relevance to the Middle East.

### III. Reading:

Read and understand long authentic texts dealing with issues of travel and immigration.

### IV. Writing:

Write a 750 word project on a topic related to travel or immigration.

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### Attendance policy:

- You are expected to attend all classes and to show up to class well prepared.
- In case of absence, please inform your instructor before not after the class you will be missing.
- Students are responsible for any class work, homework and for any announcement made during their absence.

### Academic Honesty:

- It is against the policy of this course to use *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:

Arabic is the only language used in class. If you think you need to use English, please ask permission first. English could be used, however, during office hours and in communication via email.

### Class Conduct:

- Please remember to greet the instructors and your classmates when you enter class. In Arab culture, you **never 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 you cell phones in silent mode and **in your backpacks**.

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

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

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 posted on blackboard, so make sure to check blackboard daily to see how well you are doing.

- Most of class time will be devoted to doing group or pair work. To participate actively, 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**.
- 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.
- 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 %):**

- Expect to spend an average of 2 hours of homework in preparation for every class session. Homework assignments must be turned in at the beginning of every class, and **Late homework assignments will not be accepted** unless you have received an approval from the instructor prior to the assignment's due date.

- Homework must be double spaced, and **sheets of papers must be stapled**. Make sure you write your name and the homework number. Points will be deducted when submitted work does not follow any of 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. Also, feel free to do redo the drills from the website in order to improve your score.

- Make sure you write your homework assignment in full sentences for fill-in-the blank exercises. You will not receive credit for the exercise when you submit just a list of words rather than full sentences.

### **Quizzes (15%):**

You will have a short vocabulary and grammar quiz at the end of each chapter. Dates for quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance.

### **Cultural Blog Entries and comments (5%):**

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

**MSA Oral Presentation (10%):**

You are expected to deliver a 12 - 15 minute presentation in MSA pertaining to any aspect of travel and immigration in Morocco. The presentation should be accompanied by visual materials.

**Final Written Project (15%):**

- The final written project is approximately 750 words long. It is not a one-step process. Rather, it will be based on several drafts which will be edited and polished up until the submission of the final version during the last day of the course and prior to the final.
- All drafts of the final project must be typed using the Traditional Arabic font at size 16.

**Final exam (15%):**

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%

Cultural blogs and comments 5%

quizzes: 15 %

MSA oral presentation: 10 %

Final written project: 15%

Final exam: 15 %

### **Grading Scale**

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

### **Here is a list of important links:**

#### **Office of the Registrar—Fall 2015 Registration Guide**

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

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

#### **Office of the Registrar— Fall 2015 Exam Schedule**

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

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.

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