

# Advanced Topics in Arabic Language:

## Advanced Arabic conversation

### ARBC 3060

### Fall 2022

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Office Hours M and W , 9:30 - 11:30 am & by appointment

#### Resources

Arabic Lecture Series: a compilation of presentations delivered mostly by native speakers of Arabic about a range of cultural topics. The lectures are available on youtube.

#### Course Description

This course focuses on conversational skills and aims primarily at developing student's fluency and accuracy in dialect as well as their listening and comprehension skills by using authentic listening material in the Shaami dialect. 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. By the end of the semester, students will carry out a creative script writing project .

#### Teaching Philosophy

I am a firm believer in the importance of fostering learner agency and in creating a learning environment that encourages student autonomy. For that purpose, I encourage and expect students to assume responsibility for their learning and to view the instructor not as the source of knowledge but as a coach helping them on their learning journey. Finally, another important factor in successful learning is learner-learner interaction. Therefore, I strive to create a collaborative learning environment where students work together to accomplish tasks, drawing on each others' strengths and resources.

#### Legend

Homework	Canvas > "Assignments" > homework assignments. Homework is posted on the "schedule" under modules as of the second week of class. During the first week of class, the homework is shared in announcements. Homework is due on canvas before every class.
Quizzes	In class
Graded conversations (with classmates)	Recorded via zoom and uploaded on canvas

Graded conversations (with instructor)	Instructor's zoom personal room; ID: 469 438 9603
Final project	Canvas > final project

Your success in this class is extremely important to me. If any aspects of this course prevent you from learning, please reach out as soon as possible. I will do my utmost best to work with you and to develop strategies that support your success.

### Communication Expectations

The best way to reach me is via email. Please avoid using canvas to email me; rather, send an email directly to [Caroline.Najour@unt.edu](mailto:Caroline.Najour@unt.edu). I respond within 24 hours on weekdays, and on Monday, when email is sent after 5 pm on Friday.

This class relies heavily on canvas where grades and assignments will be regularly posted. Be sure to check Canvas and your email daily as the instructor will share important information pertaining to class over the email.

## Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

### Attendance, participation, and bi-weekly conversations (25%)

Regular attendance is crucial to keeping up with the pace of the class and your overall success, so I look forward to you being in class on time and well-prepared. During the semester, you may be unable to prepare for class adequately for one or a couple of days. If for any reason, you have been unable to prepare for class adequately, **make sure to inform your instructor via email prior to class. She can arrange for you to learn by listening that day** and will avoid asking you questions in class.

- In case of an absence, please inform your instructor prior, not after, the class you will be missing. The participation grade for that day will be a "0." However, the lowest two grades for attendance, participation, and exit tickets are automatically dropped on Canvas allowing you to miss two classes without impacting your grade.
- You are responsible for any class work, homework, and for any announcements made in your absence.
- To get a full participation score, you need to:
  - Be in class on time
    - Attendance and participation points will be deducted for tardiness as follows:
      - Arrival during the first 5 min of class = 0.5 pt.
      - Arrival during the first 15 min of class = 1 pt.

- Arrival during the first 30 min of class = 2 pts.
  - Arrival during the first 40 min of class = 3 pts.
  - If you arrive more than 40 minutes late, you will receive a “0” for that day’s participation.
- Be fully prepared for class activities, and participate actively in class and group activities. The homework due prior to class will help prepare you for class activities. Participation points will be deducted as follows:
  - Not actively participating in every class activities= 1 pt.
  - Being unable to participate in an activity because of lack of preparation for class, such as not having watched the video being discussed in class= 2 pts.
  - Checking your phone while in class = 0.5 points
- Speak exclusively in Arabic during class time.
  - Students will lose up to 1 pt for speaking in English anytime during class.
  - If you feel the need to speak in English, please ask for permission first

#### Bi-Weekly conversations:

- Since we will be meeting only twice a week, I would like you to have an opportunity to practice Arabic a third time during the week. Weekly conversations will be your opportunity to do so.
  - Record a 30 minute conversation with a classmate via zoom. Unless there is a specific reason, please have your cameras on. First, it is much easier for your classmate to converse with someone they are seeing. Also, this will allow the grader to grade the conversation since she will not be able to recognize your voice.
  - Share a link of your recorded conversation on canvas under “participation,” “bi-weekly conversation.”
- To get a grade of 5 out of 5 on bi-weekly conversations, you must:
  - Speak **exclusively** in Arabic.
  - Maintain a conversation for **30 minutes**.

#### Homework Assignments (20%)

- 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 two hours learning new material, reviewing, and writing homework at home for each class session. Homework assignments must be submitted on canvas **before** class, and late homework assignments will not be accepted unless you have received approval from the instructor prior to the assignment’s due date.
- Homework must be submitted on canvas. Click on assignments, then Click “show by type” on the top right, then “homework assignments” and scroll the right homework number. You will find the homework number on the schedule available on canvas, under “modules,” “schedule.” Please note that whenever the assignment is a file upload, only pdfs are allowed.

- 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 correct answers. It is important to note that this is not a simple completion grade; rather you are required to put effort and review the necessary material to do a good job on the homework.
- The lowest two homework grades will be dropped.
- Check canvas daily to see any comments your instructor or the grader might have left. A grade of 4.9 means that your homework is very well done, and there is a comment you need to check. A 0.1 deduction will not impact your grade significantly, and is meant merely to draw your attention to go to canvas to listen to feedback or read any comments.
- It is your responsibility to check that the grade you receive is fair. Whenever you receive a grade that is less than 4.9, you must know why. If any grade does not make sense, please write in the comments on canvas to inquire. If the grade still does not seem fair to you, please let your instructor know.

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

- Quizzes may include writing and listening components in addition to grammar and vocabulary. Dates for the quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance.

#### **Graded conversations with language partner (10%)**

Twice during the semester, you will be asked to upload your 30 minute conversation with your language partner for a grade. The daily schedule will specify which weeks' conversation is graded for fluency and accuracy. You will be given personalized audio feedback regarding your language and the areas you need to focus on in upcoming conversations. You are encouraged to write down notes from the instructor's feedback, review them before every subsequent non-graded conversation in order to focus on aspects that need improvement. Making the same mistakes in the next graded conversation will result in major loss of points.

#### **Graded conversations with instructor (5%)**

Students will have a 15 minutes graded conversation with the instructor towards the end of the semester.

#### **Presentations (10%)**

During the semester, you will be delivering 2 presentations. You are highly encouraged to include visual aids in your presentation. A link to a google sign up sheet is on Canvas.

#### **Final creative Written project or participating in a Yallah Alquds course (15 %)**

- The final written project is a minimum of 750 words long and consists of writing a script in dialect. This is a creative project where you are expected to write a script for a play or an episode for a TV series.

- The goal of the project is for you to use language in a fun and creative way and to showcase your cultural competence, as well as to activate the vocabulary and grammatical structures you have learnt this semester. Because the purpose is to activate the vocabulary and grammatical structures you already know, you are not allowed to use many new words. Feel free to look up a maximum of 5 new words. Write a list of your new vocabulary at the end of the script (for nouns, provide singular and plural forms, and for verbs, list past and the present forms.
- The final project must be typed in large font and double spaced; please include a word count at the end of the script.
- The writing must be uploaded on Canvas by midnight on Thursday, Dec 15th.
- Alternatively, students whose grades are B or above by October 8 can participate in a Yallah AlQuds class facilitated by a UNT classmate, submit homework pertaining to their coursework on the platform, and receive a certificate of completion.

#### Grade distribution:

Attendance, Participation, and bi-weekly conversations (25%)

Homework Assignments (15%)

Quizzes (15%)

Presentations (10%)

Graded conversations with language partner (10%)

Graded conversations with instructor (10%)

Final creative Written project (15 %)

#### **Grading Scale**

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

#### **Extra credit**

Several opportunities for extra credit will be available through the semester. To earn extra credit, students must attend an event related to the Arab world and write a cultural report in English about it. The event must be pre-approved by the instructor and announced to the class, so everyone has an opportunity to attend. Guidelines are on canvas and students must answer specific questions. The deadline to submit the report and receive extra credit is a week after the event.

## Course Policies

### Language

Please use only Arabic from the moment you enter class. English may be used on occasion to explain some grammatical 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 begins.

If you think you need to use English, ask for permission first. English may be used, however, during office hours and via email correspondence. Class participation points will be deducted for speaking English in class. This is a chance to practice, so take full advantage!

### Late Work

Late homework assignments will not be accepted unless you received an approval from the instructor prior to the assignment's due date; however, The lowest two homework grades for classes meeting twice a week and the lowest three homework grades for classes meeting three times a week will be dropped automatically on Canvas.

### Academic Integrity

I expect you to submit your own work and participate in all aspects of the course with integrity and academic honesty. Do your own work. It is against the policy of this course to use an answer key or any translation platform or resource, to enlist the help of a fluent Arabic speaker or to have your work checked by anyone other than your instructors before submitting it. Failure to follow this policy on any assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Working on the homework with other classmates is encouraged, but each student must submit to the instructor his or her own answers.

To learn more, check [UNT's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

### Grading Concerns

I encourage you to reach out to your instructor as soon as possible if you have any questions about grades or if you feel that the grade is not accurate or fair. It is extremely important you understand the rubric and the reasoning for your grades.

### Attendance Policy

I look forward to you being in class on time and well-prepared. Regular attendance is crucial to keeping up with the pace of the class and your overall success. Daily attendance, participation and exit tickets are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, and will be posted on Canvas after every class.

In case of an absence, please inform me before, not after, the class you will be missing. The participation grade for that day will be a "0," but the lowest two grades will be dropped on canvas allowing you to miss two classes without impacting your grade.

You are responsible for any class work, homework, and for any announcements made in your absence.

## **Homework**

Assigned homework will be posted on Canvas and, unless otherwise noted, must be submitted before the beginning of the following class session.

## **Class Conduct**

Please keep your cell phones in silent mode, in your bags, and out of sight during class time.

Lastly, please be respectful of the instructor and your classmates at all times. Behavior that is disruptive or disrespectful in any manner will not be tolerated. We are all here to learn, so please do not inhibit the learning process for yourself, your classmates, or the instructor.

## **UNT Policies**

### Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

### Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and

complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **ODA Statement**

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 Access (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, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)**

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### **Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also



stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

### **Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565 2759.

## **Academic Support & Student Services**

**[Here is a list of important links:](#)**

**Office of the Registrar— Fall 2022 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 2022 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.

## **Student Support Services**

### **Mental Health**

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

### **Chosen Names**

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

\*UNT eUIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

## **Pronouns**

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

## **Additional Student Support Services**

- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

## **Academic Support Services**

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)



حظاً سعيداً وبالتوفيق!

*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of all updates; then it becomes their responsibility to adhere to the changes.*