

Second-Year Arabic (ARAB 0400) - Spring 2014

Meeting Time/ Location S01: MWF 10:00- 10:50 AM, TR 10:30 - 11:50 AM
Wilson Hall 104

Instructor S01: Mirena Christoff

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Office Hours: TR 12:00 - 1:30 PM, or by appointment

أهلاً وسهلاً!

About this class:

Welcome to the second part of the intermediate Arabic course! ARAB 0400 is an integrated - skill language and culture course that builds upon the competence acquired in ARAB 0300. **The course objective** is to advance students' ability to communicate and function in Arab cultural environments with an increased measure of fluency, accuracy, and ease. By the end of the spring semester, you will, in shaa' 'l-laah:

- expand your vocabulary bank by adding to it some 500 new words, including abstract terms, idioms, and newly coined expressions;
- be able to understand longer segments of continuous speech by native speakers in a greater variety of contexts, including the social and cultural, in addition to the personal context;
- read authentic texts written in a range of styles, from journalistic to expository;
- understand the main ideas of texts of non-technical nature; use context and grammar to indentify the form and guess the meaning of unfamiliar words;
- carry out independent research and compose brief opinion pieces on topics that have been studied with greater precision in terms of sentence structure and style;
- initiate and sustain discussion on subjects of general interest; carry our simple conversations in colloquial Arabic; provide and solicit information in a semiformal style;
- identify important figures and ideas associated with the cultural history and present of Arab societies.

The course is entirely based on authentic texts, multimedia material, music, and films. While ARAB 0400 does not present in detail any one of the colloquial variants of the language, colloquial expressions of everyday use are incorporated into the Friday conversation practice. This course also sheds some initial light on classical Arabic necessary for the study and understanding of the cultural heritage of the Arabs.

The coursework and assignments are proficiency-oriented. Teaching and communication are conducted in Arabic. Regular class attendance and active participation in the learning process, as

well as timely preparation and submission of homework assignments are of utmost importance to the successful completion of the course.

Textbook and other learning materials:

1. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya with DVDs, Part Two*, by Brustad, et al., **2nd edition**, Georgetown University Press.

In ARAB 0300, we completed the first part of *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya*. This semester, ARAB 0400 will study the first five units of *Al-Kitaab, Part Two*.

2. *The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*, edited by J.M. Cowan, and the *Oxford English - Arabic Dictionary*.

Additional learning resources and links to relevant Internet sites will be provided by the instructor and posted on the course site. Please check Canvas regularly for updates.

Tests and grading:

There is no mid-term exam; rather, your learning progress is assessed throughout the semester. Your final grade in ARAB 0400 will be formed as follows:

Homework (20%): Homework is assigned and graded on a daily basis. Please observe the following **guidelines**:

- Hand in the homework assignment **on time**, on a separate piece of paper (do not rip sheets out of the book; you may, however, photocopy pages). Write your name in Arabic as soon as you know how. Write neatly and skip lines leaving **enough room for comments and corrections**.
- **Always copy the entire sentence on which you are being drilled.** In a fill-in the blanks exercise, for example, don't hand in simply the word(s) that should go in the blank, but write down the entire sentence and underline the word you chose to put in the blank.

Class attendance and participation (20%): Regular attendance is crucial for keeping up with the pace of the class and for your overall success. Therefore, it is expected that you will exert every effort to attend all class sessions on time. Please inform your instructor **in advance** of any absence. You will still be responsible for material covered in class while you are away and for turning in any missed homework following your return. This means that you should get notes from your classmates, study the material on your own first, then, if necessary, seek the instructor's assistance, as well, during office hours. Assessing the validity of any medical, legal, or other personal excuse for missing class is at the discretion of the instructor.

Participation will be graded daily throughout the semester on a scale from 5 to 1 (5=excellent; 4 = good, but not your best effort; 3= mediocre; 2 = poor; 1 = very poor) based on preparation for

class; contribution to a cooperative classroom atmosphere; willingness to take part in class activities and interact in Arabic; effective communication in the language; and making use of the instructor's office hours.

Four Comprehensive Exams (40%): Each periodic exam is designed to assess your lexical and grammatical competence, listening, reading, and writing skills. They are scheduled in advance and taken in class. Details about the course material and units covered on each exam will be offered in class.

Arabic Project - Oral (10%): In the course of the semester, each student will be asked to speak in class for about 7 - 10 minutes on a topic of his/her choice. On this project, you may also work together with a classmate and present a skit. Oral presentations and skits are excellent opportunities to practice everything you have been studying, to show how much you have learned and how creative you can be in the language. As you prepare your oral presentations, please keep in mind that the purpose of this exercise is to make the best of what you already know.

Arabic Project - Writing (10%): The learning goal of this activity is to enhance your understanding of Arab culture. You may watch a film, read a story or a poem and write about it, comment on political events in the MENA region, attend a lecture on a topic related to Arab culture, explore websites, or research a topic of interest to you. The resulting blog entries (50 words each) should be typed in Arabic. Further information about the format and submission of the blog entries will be provided in class.

Grades range from A= 90 - 100, to B= 80 - 89, to C= 70 - 79. If your grade option is S/NC, in order to receive S, your cumulative letter grade must be C, or higher.

Please note that your final grade for Second-Year Arabic will be determined at the end of the academic year 2013 - 2014 when you complete ARAB 0400.

A detailed day-to-day schedule will be posted in Canvas at the beginning of each week. For students who may not have access to Canvas at this time, here is the class schedule for Week One:

الأسبوع الأول

الأربعاء - 22 كانون الثاني/يناير:
في الصف: الاستقبال والتعارف. تقديم الكتاب الثاني، ثم مراجعة عامة.
في البيت: دراسة مفردات الدرس الـ 1 وإعدادات 3، ص 7 للصف.

الخميس - 23 كانون الثاني/يناير:
في الصف: البدء بتفعيل مفردات الدرس الأول: ت 3. فعل "اهتمّ ب".

في البيت: دراسة المفردات الجديدة وكتابة ت 1، ص 5.

الجمعة - 24 كانون الثاني/يناير:

في الصف: نشاط محادثة في مجموعات من إثنين، ثم كصف: (1) بما تهتم في حياتك؟ كيف تختلف اهتماماتك الآن عنها في الماضي؟ (2) رحلة ممتعة قمت بها أخيراً.
في البيت: (1) نشاط استماع وكتابة (في الكتاب): ت 5، ص 9.
(2) حفظ تصريح فعل "اهتم ب".



وبالنجاح والتوفيق في الفصل الدراسي الجديد!