

## Second-Year Arabic (ARAB 0300) - Fall 2014

Meeting Time/ Location S01: MWF 10:00- 10:50 AM, TR 10:30 - 11:50 AM  
Sayles Hall 205

Instructor S01: Mirena Christoff

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

أهلاً وسهلاً!

### About this class:

ARAB 0300 is the first part of a year-long intermediate Arabic course. This course builds upon the essential skills of listening, speaking, writing, and reading you have acquired in the introductory ARAB0100 - ARAB0200. In this second year of Arabic study, your understanding and communicative ability will advance from high-beginning to high-intermediate proficiency by the ACTFL standards. If you join the Arabic Program at Brown University at the intermediate level, you should have completed the textbook *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Part One*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by Brustad, et al., or demonstrate corresponding aptitude in the language.

This fall, we will reconnect with Maha and Khalid, the captivating main characters of *Al-Kitaab*. As we follow the twists and turns of their personal stories, and keep guessing what possible future their relationship might have, we will derive from those stories new lexical meanings and grammatical references. The coursework will also incorporate poetry and prose readings, music, and films, with the multiple objectives to broaden your vocabulary; to underpin complex grammatical norms; and, more generally, to increase your understanding of current Arab cultures. Colloquial usages are naturally integrated in your language study, specifically, as the central part of the Friday conversation practice. The intermediate course will also introduce you to elements of classical Arabic, preparing you to access the riches of the Arabic literary and cultural heritage. By the end of the fall semester, you will, in shaa' 'l-laah:

- be able to understand longer segments of continuous speech (5 min) by native speakers in a greater variety of contexts, including the social and cultural, in addition to the personal context;
- have developed an accurate comprehension of familiar and/or predictable topics, especially when presented by native speakers used to speaking to a foreign audience;
- be able to initiate and sustain conversation on topics going beyond daily routines, including expressing personal opinions on social events, relationships, etc.

- be able to solicit and provide information about yourself and your familiar social environment, academic interests, personal plans, etc., relying predominantly on MSA, but also interjecting colloquial expressions;
- be able to meet a number of practical writing needs (e.g., write short communications and compositions about personal preferences, daily routines, social events, etc.);
- have mastered the basic sentence structure and verb forms;
- your vocabulary will increase by about 500 new words, including a growing number of words denoting abstract concepts, newly coined words, and idiomatic expressions;
- be able to read and understand authentic texts on topics related to academe, history, family relations, society, youth, etc., recognizing the main idea and theme, analyzing sentence and paragraph structure, and deriving meaning from unfamiliar words based on previous knowledge.

The course curriculum is proficiency-oriented. Teaching and communication are conducted in Arabic. Homework is assigned and graded on a daily basis. Timely preparation and submission of homework assignments, and regular attendance and participation in all class activities are essential for your learning and will guarantee the successful completion of this course.

#### Textbooks and other learning materials:

1. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Part One*, by Brustad, et al., 2<sup>nd</sup> edition with DVDs, Chapters 14 - 20.

The latter part of *al-Kitaab, Part One*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, is available in a free PDF format on the website of Georgetown University Press. The website also offers for a nominal charge the DVDs associated with Lessons 8 - 14, and Lessons 14-20 respectively. The following link may be used to download Chapters 14 - 20 and purchase the DVDs:

[http://press.georgetown.edu/al-kitaab/a/Teacher\\_Resources/Al\\_Kitaab\\_Part2\\_2nd\\_Edition\\_Ch14-20](http://press.georgetown.edu/al-kitaab/a/Teacher_Resources/Al_Kitaab_Part2_2nd_Edition_Ch14-20)

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

#### Tests and grading:

In ARAB0300, there is no mid-term exam; rather, your learning progress is assessed throughout the semester. The ARAB 0300 grade 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. In the top right corner, write in Arabic your name, the date and number/ page of the assigned drill. 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 have chosen 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 by 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. For this project, you may also work together with a classmate to prepare 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 presentation, 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 history and culture, explore websites, or research a topic of specific interest to you. The resulting blog entries (10 X 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 in ARAB 0300 must be C, or higher.

Please note that mid-year grades assigned at the end of the fall semester are **provisional**. They should be regarded as a feedback on your overall performance in the first half of the intermediate Arabic course. Your actual final grade for Second-Year Arabic will be determined at the end of the academic year, when you will have completed ARAB 0400, as well.

A detailed day-to-day schedule will be posted on the course website at the beginning of each week. For your information, listed below is a tentative schedule for the first week of classes:

### الأسبوع الأول

الأربعاء - 3 أيلول/ سبتمبر:  
في الصفّ: الاستقبال والتعارف. نشاط محادثة في مجموعات من إثنين، ثمّ كصفّ: كيف قضيت الصيف؟  
في البيت: مراجعة الدرس الـ 13 في الكتاب الأول.

الخميس - 4 أيلول/ سبتمبر:  
في الصفّ: تمارين مراجعة والبدء بتفعيل مفردات الدرس الـ 14.  
في البيت: دراسة مفردات الدرس الـ 14 استعداداً للمحادثة في الصفّ يوم الجمعة.

الجمعة - 5 أيلول/ سبتمبر:  
في الصفّ: موضوع المحادثة: البيت الذي اسكن فيه.  
في البيت: نشاط كتابة باستخدام المفردات الجديدة: ت 2 و ت 3، ص 244.

## و بالتوفيق إن شاء الله!

