

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

ARABIC 211 - Intermediate Arabic I
2016-2017 (Fall Term)

Instructor: Iman Mersal

Time: Mondays, 1:00PM -1:50 PM
Tues & Thurs, 12:30-1:50 PM

Place: T1 104
Place: T1 105

Office: Arts 242C

Fax: 492-9106

E-mail: imersal@ualberta.ca

Office Hours: Mon 11:00 AM – 12:00 Am & Tuesday
3:00 to 4:00 Pm or by appointment

Course Prerequisite: Arabic 112 or consent of department. Students who have not taken Arabic 112 should make sure they possess a firm understanding and practical mastery of lessons 1-13 in *Al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part One* (as well as all material in the introductory book *Alif Baa*, available for your perusal in the SUB bookstore).

ARAB 211 is an intermediate-level course, aiming to develop students' skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), as well as introducing them to contemporary Arab culture.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes x No, not needed, no such projects involved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional x None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material

X Exam registry – Students' Union

http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/infolink/exams

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (*please specify*)

NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes X No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course aims to develop your skills in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), the language read and understood by educated Arabs from Iraq to Morocco, through systematic instruction and drills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There will be four hours of instruction per week.

During this term, we will cover lessons 1- 6 from *Al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Two*. In each lesson you will be introduced to new grammatical and structural concepts, as well as vocabulary lists, in order to be able to read and understand content. After reading this content, you will read, understand, summarize and discuss the ideas in each lesson. You will be asked to select a theme related to each lesson and write a short article about it. Selected readings in modern Arabic literature and culture topics will be provided for reading, discussion, and translation. These materials will be available on eClass. Students will be introduced to Arab Cinema, Arabic poetry, narrative prose, and proverbs, as a means of building vocabulary and in order to become familiar with Arab culture.

By the end of this course, you are expected to be able to discuss different experiences, including travel, migration, and career, as well as to be able to present simple topics concerning Arab culture, such as arts, famous figures, women’s social positions, and modern historical events. Based on lectures, discussions, and the writing assignments that follow them, you will be able to articulate your ideas clearly in writing, using a variety of structures and expressions.

Texts:

Required books:

1. Kristen Brustad, et al. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Two*. Georgetown University Press, Third Edition, 2013.
2. Hans Wehr. *A Dictionary for Modern Written Arabic*. Spoken Languages Services, various editions (Arabic-English dictionary).

Course Schedule:

	Mon	Tues	Thurs	Lessons
Week 1			September 1	Introduction
Week 2	September 5 No class	September 6	September 8	Language activities & Lesson 1
Week 3	September 12	September 13	September 15	Lesson 1
Week 4	September 19	September 20	September 22	Lesson 2
Week 5	September 26	September 27	September 29 Arab Film	Lesson 2 & Arab Film
Week 6	October 3	October 4	October 6	Lesson 3
Week 7	October 10 No Class	October 11 Review	October 13 Midterm, (20%)	October 13 Midterm, (20%)

Week 8	October 17 Lesson 4	October 18 Lesson 4	October 20 Arabic Proverbs	Lesson 4 & Arabic Proverbs
Week 9	October 24	October 25	October 27	Lesson 4
Week 10	October 31 Halloween	November 3	November 5 Introduction to Arabic Poetry	Halloween party in Arabic & Lesson 5 & Introduction to Arabic Poetry
Week 11	November 7	November 8	November 10	Reading Week - No Classes ☺
Week 12	November 14	November 15	November 17	Lesson 5
Week 13	November 21 Lesson 6	November 22	November 24	Lesson 6
Week 14	November 28	November 29 Class presentations	December 1 Class presentations	Lesson 6 & Class presentations
Week 15	December 5	December 6		Review

(*) Instructor may readjust this schedule if needed according to class situation and level.

Final exam: (Thursday 15-Dec-2016, @ 2:00 p.m.)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2016-2017 academic year can be found at the following site: <http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2016-Winter-2017-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Activity	%
One midterm (October 13)	20%
Homework assignments (due every Thursday)	15%
Attendance, participation, and oral activities	10%
Three writing assignments (Arab Film review due Oct 6 - Arabic - Proverbs translation due Oct 27 - Arabic Poet biography & poem due Nov 17)	15%
Class presentations (November 29 and December 1 st)	5%
Final Exam (Thursday 15-Dec-2016, @ 2:00 p.m.)	35%
Total	100%

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):
Wednesday, January 4 - 2017 in the instructor’s office.**

Explanatory Notes on Textbook Assignments:

- Homework is given each class and is due every Thursday.
- Homework is marked according to completion and self correction of assigned drills, not the number of mistakes made.
- It is the student’s responsibility to recover missed assignments in case of absence.
- ***An absence is not an excuse for not being tested on what you have missed.***
- **Excused absence does not mean an automatic excused “homework extension”:** if the absence is on a Thursday (day of h.w. submission) the student should submit the h.w. to the instructor by e-mail.
- Participation in class includes taking part in class/group activities and discussions, answering the instructor’s questions, **preparing** for the assigned class material prior to the lesson (watching the DVD, reading vocabulary, etc), and exhibiting a positive attitude in class with respect to material, time, peers, instructor.
- We will review class material prior to each exam.

Writing assignments:

- **Arab Film review (400 words), due Oct 6.**
- **Arabic Proverbs, meaning and translation (200 words), due Oct 27.**
- **Arabic Poet biography and poem (500 words), due Nov 17.**

Class presentation: 10 - 12 minute oral presentation in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) on a topic of the student’s choice, November 29 & December 1 (5%)

- Grading of the presentation is based on the student’s self expression with MSA, use of formal structures, avoiding slang/colloquial language

Policy for Late Assignments:

- Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension **just two times** throughout the course with no penalty.
- Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time, **unexcused** late assignments will not be given any marks. No third excuse will be granted.
- Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or

If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, “attendance and participation” means attending each class, from the beginning to the end, paying attention to the instructor, and participating fully in all class activities.

Regular attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences and lateness will negatively impact your grade.

If absence is due to severe illness or any other considerable reason, student should inform the instructor **before** the beginning of class (even by e-mail).

Tardiness or early leaving the class is counted as an unexcused absence.

No excuse will be accepted if the instructor is not informed before class, unless in case of emergency. The instructor may accept a reasonable excuse for absence with no penalty **twice** throughout the course, otherwise frequent excused/unexcused absences (with no emergency reasons) will impact your grade.

In case of unexcused and unjustified absence from test and/or exam, the instructor may not accept to reschedule this particular exam.

- **Please check your emails regularly for any update regarding class (assignments, test dates, cancellation, etc.)**

- **In case of unforeseen circumstances that may lead to class cancellation, students will be notified in advance during previous classes or by e-mail (in case of an emergency).**

So please do NOT leave class before consulting your emails.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59