

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2019- 2020 ARAB 111 X01: Beginners' Arabic I
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: Housseem Ben Lazreg
Office: Old Arts 242 A
E-mail: benlazre@ualberta.ca

Time: Tues & Thurs from 5:00 -7:25 PM.
Place: HC 2-26

Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM / Thursday 4.00 PM to 5:00 PM
or by appointment.

Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite: *None*.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

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

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

- See explanations below
Document distributed in class
Other (please specify)
NA

Course Description and Objectives:

ARAB 111 X01 is intended for students who have had no prior experience with the language.

Students who can read and write MSA and have a fair knowledge of grammar are encouraged to write a placement test so that they can register in ARAB 113 or a higher level.

Arab 111 aims at building basic skills in MSA, the language read and understood by educated Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula to Morocco. During this term, we will cover the **introductory book**, *Alif Baa* (including the Arabic alphabet, diacritical marks, and speech sounds), and **five lessons** in *al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*. These lessons aim to create a bridge between classroom and real-life situations. Each lesson includes vocabulary, grammar, drills, and video examples of conversational situations. The course teaches

you simple conversation skills, which will help you to interact with Arabic speakers, and help you to teach yourself Arabic beyond the scope of the classroom.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to master knowledge of the Arabic alphabet, different types of structural sentences, reading simple MSA texts, advertisements, and news items.

In addition, students should be able to:

- Introduce themselves and communicate where they are from, where they live, what are they studying, and what are their hobbies, and ask their peers questions to obtain reciprocal information.
- Describe family members and friends, talk about seasons and studies, provide some basic information about Arab countries, and be able to write a simple paragraph about one of the basic topics studied.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be achieved from a combination of in-class conversations, group activities, formal lectures, assigned readings, audiovisual materials, and homework. There will be five hours of instruction per week, organized by systematic instruction and drills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Texts:

1. Kristen Brustad, et al. *Alif Baa*. Georgetown University Press, 3rd Edition, 2010.
2. Kristen Brustad, et al. *al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*. Georgetown University Press, 3rd Edition, 2011.
3. Additional handouts will be distributed from time to time to provide additional examples and explanations of textbook materials.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: See Academic Schedule in current Calendar

- First Day of Class: September 3, 2019.
- Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019.
- 50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019.
- Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019.
- Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019.
- Final Exam Date: Dec 5th, 2019 @5:00 pm, HC 2-26.

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:
<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Course Schedule (*):

	Tuesday	Thursday	Topic
Week 1	3- Sep	5- Sep	Introduction & Arabic alphabet
Week 2	10- Sep	12- Sep	Arabic alphabet, continued
Week 3	17- Sep	19- Sep	Alphabet, continued
Week 4	24- Sep	26-Sep	Alphabet, continued & Lesson 1
Week 5	1- Oct	3- Oct	Lesson 1 & Review on Oct 3
Week 6	8- Oct	10- Oct	Test #1 on Oct 8 (10%) (calligraphy workshop with the calligrapher Najm Altamimi) & Lesson 2
Week 7	15- Oct	17- Oct	Lesson 2 & 3
Week 8	22- Oct	24- Oct	Lesson 3 & 4
Week 9	29- Oct	31- Oct	Lesson 4 & Review on Oct 31
Week 10	5- Nov	7- Nov	Test # 2 on Nov 5 (15%) & Lesson 5
Week 11	12- Nov	14- Nov	<i>no classes - Reading Week</i>
Week 12	19- Nov	21- Nov	Lesson 5
Week 13	26- Nov	28- Nov	Oral Test on Nov 26 & Nov 28 (10%)
Week 14	3 - Dec	5 - Dec	Class skit on Dec 3 (5%); Final Exam Dec 5, (25%)

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

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”)

Homework (due every Tuesday)	15%
Attendance (5%), participation (10%) and movie review (5%)	20 %
Test #1 on Oct 8	10%
Test #2 on Nov 5	15%
Oral Test on Nov 26 & 28	10%
Class skit on Dec 3	5%
Final Exam on Dec 5	25%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

- Homework is given each class and is due every Tuesday.
- Homework is marked according to accuracy.
- 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 Tuesday (day of h.w. submission) the student should submit the h.w. to the instructor by e-mail. before the following day.
- 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 quiz/test/exam.
- **Class skit:** each student will prepare and deliver a 4-5-minute presentation (working in groups TBA in class) based on proposed topics (discussed in class in advance). While the presentation is a group project, grades will be given individually (a grading rubric will be provided on eClass prior to the presentations).
- **Oral Test:** given individually or in pairs (details about quiz topics will be provided in advance).
- Grading of the oral component is based on the student's level in comprehension, self-expression in MSA, use of formal structures, and avoiding colloquial language.
- **Movie review:** you have to watch an Arabic movie (samples will be provided on Moodle) and write a review about it (why did you chose it, summary, themes, why did you like it nor not). The review will be in English. This is due the last class of the semester.
- **Note: additional short written or oral tests/quizzes may be conducted in class (with or without previous notice) for evaluation/assessment purpose and may count towards class activities.**

Required Notes:

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

Student Responsibilities:

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](#) and avoid any behaviour that 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."

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behaviour.

Language and Translation Courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behavior.

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 that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy 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 direct 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 Office of the Student Ombuds. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL.

Sexual Violence Policy

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”
(from the beginning of the Calendar).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

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). **Unexcused Tardiness or leaving the class early is counted as attending only half of the class.** No excuse will be accepted if the instructor is not informed before class, unless in case of emergency. The instructor may accept reasonable excuse for absence with no penalty **twice** throughout the course, otherwise frequent excused 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 rescheduling.

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.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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

Copyright: Housseem Ben Lazreg, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2019.