

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**ARAB 211 A1 - Intermediate Arabic I  
2019-2020 (Fall Term)**

Instructor: Iman Mersal

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**E-mail: [imersal@ualberta.ca](mailto:imersal@ualberta.ca)**

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

Place: HC 2- 38

**Office Hours: Monday 12:00 to 1:00 pm & Tuesday  
11:00 to 12:00 am or by appointment.**

Fax: 492-9106

**Course Website: eClass**

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**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).

***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 involved

Community Service Learning component

Required    Optional     None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material

Exam registry – Students' Union

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

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

**Course Description and Objectives:**

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.

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.

**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:**

**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).

**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: (Tuesday, 17-Dec-2019, @ 9:00 am. Place: HC 2- 38)

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

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

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):** Thursday, December 19, 2019 in the instructor’s office.

**Course Schedule:**

	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Lessons</b>
Week 1	September 3	September 5	<b>Introduction &amp; Language activities</b>
Week 2	September 10	September 12	<b>Lesson 1</b>
Week 3	September 17	September 19	Lesson 1 & 2
Week 4	September 24	September 26	Lesson 2
Week 5	<b>October 1 Lecture on Arab Cinema</b>	<i>October 3</i>	<b>Arab Cinema &amp; Lesson 3</b>
Week 6	October 8	October 10	Lesson 3
Week 7	October 15	October 17 <b>Midterm, (20%)</b>	<b>Review on October 15 &amp; Midterm on October 17, (20%)</b>
Week 8	October 22 <b>Arabic Proverbs</b>	October 24	<b>Arabic Proverbs on October 22 &amp; Lesson 4</b>
Week 9	October 29	October 31	Lesson 4 & 5
Week 10	November 5 Introduction to Arabic Poetry	November 7	Introduction to Arabic Poetry on November 5 & Lesson 5
Week 11	November 12	November 14	Reading Week - No Classes ☺
Week 12	November 19	November 21	Lesson 5
Week 13	November 26	November 28	Lesson 6
Week 14	December 3 <b>Class presentations</b>	December 5 <b>Class presentations</b>	<b>Class presentations &amp; Review</b>

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

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Activity	%
One midterm (October 17)	20%
Homework assignments (due every Thursday)	15%
Attendance, participation, and oral activities	10%
<b>Three writing assignments (Arab Film review due <i>Oct 10</i> - Arabic - Proverbs translation due <i>Oct 31</i> - Arabic Poet biography &amp; poem due <i>Nov 19</i>)</b>	15%
Class presentations (Dec 3 and 5)	5%
Final Exam (Tuesday 17-Dec-2019, @ 9:00 am.)	35%
Total	100%

**Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2019-2020 academic year can be found at the following site:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

**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 10.**
- **Arabic Proverbs, meaning and translation (200 words), due Oct 31.**
- **Arabic Poet biography and poem (600 words), due Nov 19.**

**Class presentation:** 10 - 12-minute oral presentation in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) on a topic of the student’s choice, December 3 & 5 (5%)

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

**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.

***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.”

### ***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).***

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.

***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 twice 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](#) web page.

**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](#) web page.

**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**

<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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