

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2021-2022

ARAB 111 - A1: Beginners' Arabic I
(Fall Term)

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

Time: **T/R 09:30AM - 10:50AM**
Place: **HC L1-L2**
Office Hours: **T/TH 16.30 PM – 17.30 PM**
or by appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: None

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

Technology requirements (minimum):

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

Experiential Learning Component

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

Yes No, not needed

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, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

ARAB 111 - A1 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 (heritage class) 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 in class, individual drills, and tasks (on Moodle), assigned readings, audiovisual materials, and homework. **There will be two hours and forty minutes of instruction per week, accompanied with few hours to complete course content online on Moodle.**

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 uploaded on Eclass 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 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Final Exam Date: 13-Dec-2021 (Monday) @ 9:00 a.m

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:

<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=34&navoid=10107 - examinations-exams>)

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

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Homework	10%
Attendance and participation	10%
1 Movie review (due last day of class/submitted on Moodle)	5%
Test #1 on September 28th	15%
Test #2 on November 4th	15%
Oral exam will be held between November 25 th and November 30th	10%
Class skits on December 2nd	5%
Final Exam: 13-Dec-2021 (Monday) @ 9:00 a.m	30 %

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2020-2021 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2020-winter-2021-exam-planner.html?>

Course Schedule:

	Monday (work to be done on Eclass)	Tuesday 09:30 - 10:50 CLASS TIME	Wednesday (work to be completed on Eclass)	Thursday 09:30 – 10:50 CLASS TIME	Topic
Week 1			SEP 1	SEP 2	Syllabus+ Arabic alphabets
Week 2	SEP 6 Labor Day (no class)	SEP 7	SEP 8	SEP 9	Alif baa: Arabic alphabets
Week 3	SEP 13	SEP 14	SEP 15	SEP 16	Alif baa: Arabic alphabets
Week 4	SEP 20	SEP 21	SEP 22	SEP 23	Alif baa: Arabic alphabets
Week 5	SEP 27	SEP 28	SEP 29	SEP 30 (no class) (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.	Alif baa: Arabic alphabets Test 1: September 28th
Week 6	OCT 4	OCT 5	OCT 6	OCT 7	Alif baa: Arabic alphabets
Week 7	OCT 11 Thanksgiving Day	OCT 12	OCT 13	OCT 14	Al kitab: Unit 1
Week 8	OCT 18	OCT 19	OCT 20	OCT 21	Al kitab: Unit 2
Week 9	OCT 25	OCT 26	OCT 27	OCT 28	Al kitab: Unit 3
Week 10	NOV 1	NOV 2	NOV 3	NOV 4	Al kitab: Unit 4 Test 2: Nov 4th
Week 11	NOV 8	NOV 9	NOV 10	NOV 11	Reading week
Week 12	NOV 15	NOV 16	NOV 17	NOV 18	Al kitab: Unit 5

Week 13	NOV 22	NOV 23	NOV 24	NOV 25	Oral exams+ Al kitab: Unit 5
Week 14	NOV 29	NOV 30 DEC 7 th Last day of class	DEC 1	DEC 2	Class skits + Review for final exam
Week 15	DEC 6th				Review for final exam

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

- Homework is given every week. It is marked according to accuracy. (Completion solely guarantees a partial grade)
- 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 the student should submit the h.w. to the instructor by e-mail. before the following Monday.
- 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.
- **Tests** are designed to test mastery of class materials (reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and writing). There will be a review session prior to each quiz and a feedback session afterwards. A sample quiz will be available online.
- **Final exam** will include reading comprehension, essay writing, and grammar. A sample final will be available online.
- **Movie review in English (100-150 words):** you have to watch an Arabic movie (**samples will be provided on Eclass**) and write a review about it (why did you chose it, summary, themes, why did you like it or not). It is due last day of class.
- **Class skits:** each group will prepare and deliver a 5 - 6-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 prior to the presentations).
- **Oral Exam:** The exam consists of a conversation between a student, a peer and your teacher. The conversation will last about 7-8 minutes, your teacher will ask you a few questions as needed, and you must contribute to the conversation as best as possible. 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.

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 (by e-mail). **The instructor may accept reasonable excuse for absence with no penalty three times 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.

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](#).

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 Behaviour](#).

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).

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>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to

coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[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.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

Learning and working environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behavior that undermines that environment.

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>

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.

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

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	%
<p>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.</p>	A+	4.0	95-100
	A	4.0	90-94
	A-	3.7	86-89
<p>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.</p>	B+	3.3	82-85
	B	3.0	75-81
	B-	2.7	70-74
<p>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.</p>	C+	2.3	66-69
	C	2.0	61-65
	C-	1.7	58-60
<p>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.</p>	D+	1.3	55-57
	D	1.0	50-54
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-49

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