Syllabus
ARBC 2150
Coordinator: Gaby Semaan
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Office Phone: (419) 530 2546
Office Hours: M W 12:25-1:55; 3:30-4:30; by appointment.
E-mail address: Gaby.Semaan@utoledo.edu
Class Instructor:
Class Hours: MW 2:00 -3:15. Class Location: FH 2680

“There can be no real learning of a language without understanding something of the patterns and values of the culture of which it is a part” Robert Lado.

Course Description

Arabic 2150 is the last level of your Intermediate Arabic courses at UT.. In this course you will continue to build up your proficiency in the four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). The course will stress active use of the language. To accomplish this, we will take a communicative approach to Arabic, covering not only communicating in Modern standard but also in colloquial Arabic (Levantine and Egyptian dialects). Thus, the course curriculum will be based on the textbook and additional material that will be provided throughout the semester. This will include handouts, dictations, music, educational games and so forth. We will spend this semester engaging in multiple tasks associated with our lives in various Arab communities. Our focus will be on responding effectively to some situations that we might encounter in everyday life. In addition, we will engage in cultural activities learning the language rather then learn about it.

Goals

At the end of this semester you can reasonably expect to build on your previous knowledge and further your ability to understand and communicate in the areas covered in previous classes in addition to increasing your knowledge and use of colloquial Arabic.

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:
- Read and understand passages within the range of vocabulary and structures covered in this course and in previous courses.
- Write short compositions in Arabic.
- Carry out conversations in MSA and colloquial Arabic on a range of topics,
- Understand contextualized speech on a range of subjects.
- Acquire a well-rounded knowledge of Arab culture, as well as understanding of Arab-American communities, connection with Arab people, and ability to compare and communicate ideas in a clear, concise yet simple ways.

Text

Previously used


**Currently the courses adopted textbook/s is under revision.**

**Aids to Success**
Following are some keys that you need in order to succeed in learning a foreign language (Arabic in this case):

- **Motivation**: You need an incentive—a reason to pursue your goal. Students with high motivation generally do best. So, whatever your motivation might be, talking to your grandparents, traveling, making friends, or getting a date with an Arabic speaker individual 😊, PLEASE keep that in mind.

- **Humility**: Don’t expect too much of yourself—mistakes are inevitable, especially at first. In this class we are going to laugh at our mistakes. So, keep your sense of humor! Remember that when you are learning a language you are like a child learning to walk, often you stumble, but you just have to get up and try again.

- **Patience**: the language gets easier with time. You will not think you’ve made progress unless you look back.

- **Practice**: A regular routine will help you to become fluent. Try to practice every day, even if for just a few minutes. Remember, “a little and often’ is preferable to ‘a lot but seldom.’”

**Helpful Tools**
Each person has his/her own learning style. Whatever yours is, you may find it helpful to use a combination of the following tools to enhance your progress:

- **Flash cards**.

- **Audiovisual Media**: We have audiovisual material at the Foreign Language Learning Center (FLLC) located on the second floor of FH (FH 2330).

- **Interactive computer programs / Internet sites**: Some of these allow you to record your voice and compare your pronunciation with that of native speakers of the language. A suggestive list will be provided.

- **Radio and television**: If you have access to Arabic radio or television programs, tune in and see how much you can understand.

- **Magazines, books and e-sites**: Try reading printed material in Arabic, making sure that the comprehension level is neither too high nor too low.

- **Other tools will be discussed and provided in class.**

**Grading & Evaluation**
✓ **Quizzes:** 200 pts
   Expect four quizzes over the period of the semester. These would be short quizzes that would take only a portion (10-15 min) of the class meeting periods. Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance.

✓ **Midterm:** 100 pts
   Only in extremely grave circumstances will students be able to make up the midterm. Under such circumstances, students are expected to contact me in advance and let me know. Only in an emergency situation will this be unnecessary. If you miss the midterm, you have to retake it at the testing center located in FH.

✓ **Final:** 100 pts
   The final exam will be take place at the scheduled exam time for the course during the final exams week.

**Project:** 200 pts
   For these projects, you will choose your own project or performance and present it in class. Additional instructions will be provided in class.

✓ **Class decision:** 100 pts
   In order for all to have more participation and create a community class 10% of the final grade is reserved to be assigned for activity or activities that we will decide on as a class.

✓ **Attendance and participation:** 100 pts
   This should be self-explanatory. However, if you think you need clarification about it, see me 😊.

✓ **FLLC visits:** 50 pts
   You are expected to visit the FLLC and watch Arabic TV programs at least 5 times for at least 30 minutes each time. You'll report to your instructor and, maybe, to the class what you have watched. Make sure to sign in and out on the signup sheet located at the front desk of the FLLC and on the sheet designated for the purpose of watching the Arabic channels.

**Colloquial Arabic:** 50 pts
   In each class, or every other class we will be engaging in conversations related to communication that you might face in daily encounters. You'll be provided with text or topic prior to each class and you should come to class ready to converse on that particular topic.

✓ **Oral conversation:** 50 pts
   This activity involves a face-to-face conversation with your instructor or someone designated by him.

✓ **Reading test:** 50 pts
   Like the oral conversation, all students are to take this test sometime by the end of the semester. More details will be provided later.

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**General Policies:**

**Attendance:** This is not a correspondence course; your attendance and active
participation are required at every single session. This will help you achieve the goals of this course and accomplish your personal academic goals. Thus, your regular attendance and informed active participation are expected. It is your responsibility to check with your instructor or classmates in case you missed a class to know what assignments or quizzes were assigned during that class. **Missing classes, without a legitimate excuse, will lower your grade.** Anyone who gets in a habit of arriving late will be considered absent if he/she is not in class when attendance is taken.

**Assignments:** Assignments are due on the day specified. Late work, if accepted, might lower your grade. All homework will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis unless otherwise announced. Arrangements will be made that everybody will have access to assignments from the optional text.

**Cell phones and Pagers:** These are annoying in the classroom; please **turn them OFF** for the duration of the class. Playing with a cell phone or pager while the class is in session will result with a first warning, the second time it will result in asking the student to leave the class.

**Students with Special Needs**
Students with disabilities or who may need special accommodations and wish to discuss their eligibility for such accommodations are encouraged inform me and to contact the Office of Accessibility located at 1820 Rocket Hall, phone (419) 530-4981 website: http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/accessibility/index.html.

**Course Calendar**
The provided course calendar is a tentative one that may change based on the needs of the class. Please remember that the assignments assigned on the calendar are not the only ones that you will have to do. Additional work will be assigned and announced in class. Please remember as well that every time we have colloquial Arabic you should come to class ready to participate in the conversations agreed upon and announced in class based a booklet that you will get.

Calendar under revision