

## Intermediate Arabic اللغة العربية / السنة الثانية

## (ARA 621K)

يرجى ملاحظة أن طلاب السنة الثانية في برنامج جامعة تكساس يبدأون بالدرس الثالث عشر في الكتاب ج. ١ وأن مخطط الأهداف والتوقعات هذا يعكس هذا الواقع. فالانتقال إلى الكتاب ج. ٢ يحدث عادة بعد اسبوعين من بدء الدراسة.

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Mahmoud Al-Batal	<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> Valerie Montes
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**Prerequisite:** Completion of ARA611C with at least a C, or placement by the placement coordinator.

### Required Course Materials مواد المساق المطلوبة

1. Brustad, Kristen, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al-Tonsi. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic Part One*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press. Third edition. **(Lessons 12 and 13 will be provided in PDF format for those who do not already own the textbook.)**
2. Brustad, Kristen, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al-Tonsi. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic Part Two*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press. Third edition.
3. Textbook companion website: [www.alkitaabtextbook.com](http://www.alkitaabtextbook.com). You will need to have access to the companion textbook sites for *both* the *Al Kitaab, Part 1* and *Al Kitaab, Part 2*. Access costs \$25 per book, and is available to you for 18 months after purchase. Please see the class Canvas page for sign-up instructions.
4. Wehr, H. *A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. Third or Fourth edition.
5. **Canvas:** In this class we will use Canvas--a web-based course management platform--to distribute course materials, communicate online, post assignments, and post grades. You will receive emails with important course information from your instructor via Canvas's email tool, so be sure to check your email frequently. You will be responsible for checking the Canvas course site regularly for class work and announcements. Canvas can be accessed at [utexasie.instructure.com](http://utexasie.instructure.com).

The required textbooks are available at the Co-op at 2246 Guadalupe St., Austin, TX 78705.

## Course Objectives: أهداف المساق

By the end of Arabic 621K, إن شاء الله, you will have achieved the following goals:

- 1) Speak about personal and some academic topics, using all basic grammatical tenses, as well as ask questions and make requests. You will speak in complete sentences using connectors to link sentences and form basic paragraphs. You will increase your ability to determine appropriate register (between formal and colloquial) depending on speech context.
- 2) Listen and understand authentic and specially-crafted materials in clear speech and delivered at a normal speed in both formal and colloquial Arabic. You will also gain awareness of culturally-appropriate ways to acknowledge what is said, as well as appropriate ways to interrupt when needed.
- 3) Continue to gain command of expression and idioms used in daily life/important events, other types of language that is socio-linguistically significant in Arabic-speaking societies, as well as the what register is appropriate to specific contexts.
- 4) Read and comprehend many general, and some specific, details in texts 1-2 pages in length written in both formal and mixed formal/colloquial registers. You will develop the ability to guess new words from familiar roots/patterns.
- 5) Develop your ability to read and listen to Arabic using techniques like:
  - Skimming to get an overview of a text's topic and structure before reading;
  - Scanning texts for specific information;
  - Inferring meaning from context and through application of grammatical knowledge, deduction and real world knowledge;
  - Parsing and analyzing complex sentences;
  - Using the system of root and pattern to learn and guess the meaning of new words;
  - Identifying and ignoring inaccessible parts of a text;
  - Using the dictionary efficiently
- 6) Write and edit longer essays (~150 – 200 words) narrating events, expressing opinions, and requesting information. You will move increasingly toward writing primarily in formal Arabic (MSA), using grammatical structures appropriate to formal written contexts. You will also develop your ability to coordinate ideas using appropriate connectors.
- 7) Significantly increase your vocabulary, expanding your ability to talk about daily topics, events in the past, and plans for the future.
- 8) Solidify and expand knowledge of, and ability to use previous grammatical structures, while recognizing and actively using new grammatical structures and gaining basic familiarity with the case system.
- 9) Further develop your awareness of aspects of Arab culture such as marriage and family relations, Arabs in the diaspora, markets and shopping, etc.

## Grade Distribution توزيع الدرجات

(see below for a detailed description of each course requirement)

Participation	20%
Homework	20%
HW Corrections	5%

Quizzes	15%
Oral Presentations	10%
Writing Portfolio	10%
Final Exam	20%

## 1. Participation (20%) المشاركة في الصف

(please also review *\*Note on Attendance*)

Class time is your primary opportunity to develop your Arabic oral skills. To fully exploit this opportunity, we will all **speak in Arabic as much as possible** from the time we enter the classroom. Speaking Arabic and avoiding English in class is very important to your proficiency development. Controlling the urge to use English can be frustrating, but it will help you find your “voice” in Arabic, and help to create an immersion environment that will benefit everyone.

Class time is devoted to activating the vocabulary and structures that you have studied at home through your daily assignments. Attendance and active participation in class is essential to your making good language proficiency gains and doing well in the class. Expect to spend at least 75% of class time doing activities in pairs and small groups.

You will receive a daily participation grade of 0 to 5. Full credit (5/5) is earned when you

1. are present and ready to begin all class sessions on time,
2. are well prepared (meaning you have studied the assigned material well, listened to assigned materials on the website, learned the new vocabulary, read the grammar explanations carefully, and done the homework drills based on these explanations before coming to class),
3. participate actively when working as a whole class and in groups,
4. maintain the “Arabic as much as possible” policy,
5. make maximum use of pair/group work time by staying on task and using Arabic.
6. leave your cell phones and electronic devices on silent mode and abstain from interacting with them unless otherwise indicated by your instructor.

Partial credit is given if your participation is lacking in any of the above areas (for instance, you don’t work effectively with classmates, come late to class, use English, or are not focused on the assigned task during group work). A zero grade will be assigned for absences. Please do not be late for class, so that you do not miss material or disturb class activities. **Tardiness will result in points lost.** If you come to class but do not submit homework, please keep in mind that this will affect your ability to participate in class, and will result in points lost. Your lowest 2 participation grades will be dropped for grade calculation purposes.

### \*Note on Attendance

In a nutshell: Attendance is **mandatory** in all class sessions. **Absence from more than 10 class sessions or more —whatever the reason for the absence—will result in an “F” grade in the course.**

## 2. Homework (20%) الواجبات

To prepare for the learning that takes place through practice in class, you will listen to, read and study new material at home. **This new material will not be presented in class.** The amount of effort you put

into your at-home preparation and your homework directly affects your ability to participate effectively during class.

To help you process this material, you have daily written assignments **due at the beginning of class on the day designated in the schedule**. Expect to spend an average of 2 to 2.5 hours each weekday learning new material, writing homework, and reviewing. On weekends, expect 4-5 hours of assignments. Homework assignments will be evaluated daily. The *effort* you put into your at-home preparation and homework is an important part of your homework grade. You do not have to get everything 100% correct on your homework in order to obtain a high score. It is important to put forth your best effort. Homework is scored on a scale of 0 to 5 (5=excellent; 4=good but not your best effort; 3=insufficient; 2=poor; 1=very poor; 0=late or not submitted). Your two lowest homework grades will be dropped for grade calculation purposes.

When submitting homework, please keep the following in mind:

1. All drills and exercises should be hand-written. Photocopies will not be accepted unless noted in your homework schedule.
2. Late homework assignments will not be accepted. If there are extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from turning in homework on time, contact your instructor *in advance* to discuss.

On each assignment, please:

1. Write your name **in Arabic**.
2. Write the homework number (from assignment schedule).
3. Staple pages together in the upper right hand corner.
4. Underline the specific word(s) that comprise(s) your answer, where applicable.
5. Double space. This gives your instructor and TA room to provide feedback.
6. Continued failure to do the above may result in points lost.

### **A note about [al-kitaabtextbook.com](http://al-kitaabtextbook.com) companion website:**

Put your best effort into the work you do on the website and do not take short cuts. Your instructors can monitor how you perform on each assigned exercise on the website. Last year, we discovered that some students were simply clicking the “submit” button before actually attempting to answer any of the questions in the online drill. Presumably, they did this in order to get to the right answers before attempting to answer the questions. You will NOT learn this way.

### **Homework Corrections (5%) تصحيح الواجبات**

**A note about feedback:** You will receive extensive feedback on your homework. Pay close attention to the instructor and TA’s comments on your assignments, and follow up promptly in office hours or after class if you have questions about your homework grade.

**Corrections:** You will be assigned homework corrections a handful of times during the semester. Homework corrections entail returning to selected exercises as indicated on the homework schedule. They will count as any other homework assignment. This means that on days you are submitting corrections, you will be receiving two homework grades. If there is space on your original assignment,

you may correct on there, otherwise please use a separate sheet of paper. If not, please submit your corrections on a separate sheet of paper along with the original assignment(s). Please seek out assistance if it is unclear to you why a certain answer is incorrect. Homework corrections are a golden opportunity, so take advantage of them!! You can ask your peers, your instructor, your TA, your Instructional Support, someone else's Instructional Support etc., just make sure you review your answers-to-be-corrected with a fine-toothed comb. You will thank yourself later!

### 3. Quizzes (15%) الامتحانات القصيرة

We plan to have **4 quizzes** during this session). Exact quiz dates will be announced on your homework schedule. If you will miss a quiz, contact your instructor as soon as you know that you will be missing it. Requests for make-ups will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### 4. Oral Presentations (10%) التقديمات الشفوية

**Individual Presentation (5%):** This will be a brief video recording to be posted on a closed YouTube channel. Additional information will be provided at least a week before the due date, near the end of the semester.

**Skit (5%):** You and a partner will prepare one skit (5-7 minutes) and present it in class together. The skit will be presented towards the end of the semester. Skits provide you with the opportunity to exhibit what you have learned and what you can create with the language. Further information about the skit's format and evaluation will be provided by mid-session.

### 5. Writing Portfolio (10%) مَلَفّ الكتابة

During this semester you will do several extensive essays (إنشاءات) as part of your ملفّ الكتابة. The due dates, topics and word length requirements for your writing will be given on the weekly schedule. You will be required to correct some of these assignments and submit them as final drafts as noted in advance on the weekly schedule. Both first and final drafts will be graded and weighted equally in your Writing Portfolio grade.

Your essays should be composed primarily in MSA (الفصحى) unless otherwise specified.

All drafts should be typed in a large font with double spacing so your instructor can make comments. When you submit a final draft, be sure to submit the first draft with your final draft. **Please include a word count on all of your essays.**

First drafts will be graded as follows:

**5=** your assignment 1) meets the length and submission requirements and is on-topic; 2) is completely comprehensible; and uses a substantial amount of 3) new vocabulary and 4) new structures with 5) a high level of accuracy;

**4=** well written but does not meet one of the above criteria;

**3=** does not meet two of the above criteria;

**2=** does not meet three of the above criteria OR only one draft submitted

**1**= essay submitted does not meet any of the criteria.

**0**= You did not submit the assignment or submitted it after the deadline without making prior arrangements with the instructor for late submission

Final drafts must meet the above requirements and *also* reflect:

1. a clear effort to address your instructors' feedback on your first draft in a thorough manner
2. a clear effort to strengthen your writing style (through, for example, the use of connectors, vocabulary choice, or expanding your ideas)
3. a clear effort to correct remaining/repeated errors (if you make the same mistake multiple times in your essay, your instructors will make a note of this; you are then expected to correct all the examples of that mistake in your essay)

Essays will be only accepted if submitted on time, on paper, and in class. Essays submitted via email will **NOT** be accepted or corrected.

## 6. Final Exam (20%) الامتحان النهائي

There will be a final exam scheduled for second year Arabic to be scheduled during finals week of the fall 2014 semester. This exam will evaluate listening, reading and writing skills in addition to vocabulary and grammar.

### Final Grade Calculation and Academic Credit

Your instructor will record your grades on Canvas on at least a weekly basis. It is your responsibility to check your grades. If you notice any grade that you have a question about, please discuss it with your instructor no later than one week from the date on which the grade is posted. If your question concerns a grade you received on paper, bring the particular assignment (homework, corrections, writing portfolio entries, etc.) to your instructor to discuss it.

Number/letter grade equivalents are:

Number	Letter	Number	Letter	Number	Letter	Number	Letter
94 - 100	A	87 - 89.9	B+	77 - 79.9	C+	67 - 69.9	D+
		84 - 86.9	B	74 - 76.9	C	64 - 66.9	D
90 - 93.9	A-	80 - 83.9	B-	70 - 73.9	C-	60 - 63.9	D-

(Below 60% = F)

Additional Notes on Final Grades and Academic Credit

- Plus/Minus grading is in effect in this course.
- Grades on the border between two letter grades may or may not be rounded up to the next higher letter grade, at the instructor's discretion.

- No Incompletes will be given for this course. Auditing is not permitted.
- **You must earn a C+ or higher to automatically continue to the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of Intensive Arabic at UT Austin.**

## How to Do Well in Your Second Year Arabic Class

**By Professor Kristen Brustad**

### Things to Keep in Mind this Year

- Second year language study is your “teenage-hood” in language study. It can be frustrating at times because the higher levels of proficiency demand greater accuracy and you must more than double your vocabulary this semester, which in turn requires more mechanical practice. Know that your frustration will be temporary and that you are learning more than you can tell right now because you are developing skills that will help you reach an advanced level. Progress at this level is often from plateau to plateau, rather than a steady climb. *Keep at it!*
- We move from “sprint training” to “marathon training.” Notice that sentences, texts, video passages and drills are getting longer as you reach the upper levels of intermediate proficiency. We will be building memory capacity and endurance. Push yourself to speak and write in longer sentences and paragraphs.

The following suggestions will help you get the most out of your course.

**1. Be an active learner.** The approach we use here at UT depends on you learning new material at home, and encourages you to use analogy and logical thinking to master grammar a little bit at a time. You will learn better and remember more when you are able to answer your own questions. Active learners often have questions that reflect their engagement with the material. Take initiative in class and on homework: this effort will be rewarded both in your grade and in your language ability. Feel free to write us questions on specific language features in your daily homework—just remember to be specific.

**2. Put yourself out there.** Language learning requires you to make mistakes, both in your assignments and in front of your peers. In this class, you will never be penalized for a mistake that you make when trying something new. You will be corrected in class. Feedback from your instructors is intended to support you as you develop your language proficiency, and not as criticism.

**3. Personalize vocabulary.** You will remember vocabulary when you “own” it. Make words relevant to your life by thinking of what you can say about yourself with them. Write extra sentences that are meaningful to you so that the vocabulary becomes “yours” and expresses something about your world.

**4. Prepare for active participation in class by anticipating what you will do.** You should soon be able to predict what kinds of activities will be performed and how. As you study new material and complete assignments before each class, think about how you will use the material. This will help you to prepare for the activities we’ll do in class.

**5. Study out loud, and repeat new words many times.** The only way to train your brain and your mouth to speak this language is by doing it aloud. Certain muscles need to be strengthened before they'll be able to produce some Arabic sounds correctly; studying aloud and exaggerating these sounds will help your muscles develop! Pronounce new vocabulary words at least fifteen times, until you can say them easily and it feels natural.

**6. Guess.** Think about how you acquired your native language: you did not use a dictionary. Rather, you learned new words by guessing their meaning from context, and you learned how to produce sentences by imitating and using patterns. As adult learners, we can take some shortcuts, but guessing skills remain central to language acquisition. Do not leave blanks on the homework, but do not allow yourself to become frustrated; give it your best shot, and move on. If you are not sure you have understood a sentence in the homework, write a translation or a question on your homework for your instructor to check or answer.

**7. Correct yourself.** Good language learners learn from their own successes and mistakes and those of others. Correcting mistakes is an essential part of the learning process. In this class, you will never be penalized for a mistake that you make when trying something new. When your instructors and classmates are speaking, be an active listener by listening both to what they are saying and how they are saying it. Correcting the mistakes of others in your head or in your notebook is also good practice.

**8. Extend language learning beyond the classroom.** Practice Arabic as much as possible. Study with classmates: ask each other questions, brainstorm about assignments, go over materials—and do this in Arabic as much as possible. Look out for films and cultural activities on campus and around town and go attend them.

**9. Develop your memorization skills for vocabulary learning.** Experiment with different techniques, combining listening, speaking and writing together as much as possible. Try some vocab study techniques from the list on the next page.

## Vocabulary Study Strategies

*(Adapted from [arabicteachers.wikispaces.com](http://arabicteachers.wikispaces.com))*

**Use the words.** Your goal in learning vocabulary is to be able to use it, right? The purpose of studying a new language is NOT to be able to recognize vocabulary words on a page. That won't help you when you're actually interacting with an Arabic speaker! Instead, use the words in phrases and sentences to describe what you see around you.

**Listen to the words.** You want to be able to recognize words you know when you hear them in conversation. This doesn't just happen by studying the words on a page. "Tune" your ears to the sounds of Arabic by listening to your vocabulary sets regularly.

**Memorize language in “chunks.”** Your brain organizes things in groups. When you learn new words, try to organize them around basic concepts or webs. Re-organize your notes in a way that helps you relate the words each other.

**Be creative and have fun with the language.** Draw a silly image that will remind you of a word, act out words and phrases, handle and manipulate objects as you learn the words for them or make up songs or rhymes to help you associate groups of words. Or, instead of drawing, create a mental image to associate with the new word.

**Quiz yourself and your classmates.** Study some new words in the morning, and then check to see if you can still remember them in a few hours, the next day, and a week later. If you find some words are not sticking, try using different techniques from this list to work on those words.

**Write it out.** Try saying each word aloud as you write it. Try writing sentences using the new words. The simple act of writing the words can help to make the vocabulary stick, especially when combined with other strategies. Writing out and using flash cards can be a great technique, too. Just keep in mind that you don't only want to be able to translate the words—you want to be able to use them. Flash cards are helpful, but aren't enough on their own.

**Focus on what you *can* say with the words you have, rather than looking up brand new words.**

Looking up a bunch of new words distracts you from the words that you are learning in your course. Use the words you are learning creatively to get your point across. This not only helps the words to stick, but also is a great way to train your brain to use **circumlocution**--to speak around topics and vocabulary you don't have specific terms for.

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## Principles for Group Activities

**This class is a group effort!** We can make much more progress as a class than as individuals by creating an Arabic-speaking community, of which you will be a fully participating member. In our class community, respect for each other at all times will ensure a positive and fruitful learning experience. We will spend at least 75% of class time in small group or pair activities so that each one of you gets the maximum possible time to participate and practice. During these activities, the instructor plays the role of a personal trainer. Learning a language is a lot like going to the gym: the personal trainer guides you, but you have to do the work to get the benefit.

**Please keep in mind the following principles for group work:**

- Help and encourage your colleagues, and accept help from them: each of us can learn from everyone else.
- Work with different people on a regular basis.

- Come prepared. Don't be someone who slows down colleagues by not being able to fully participate in the work. If you are not prepared for class, let your instructor know beforehand and s/he will arrange for you to learn by listening on that day.
- Stay focused on the task at hand and do not rush to finish. If you do the minimum, you will get only minimum benefit. Take advantage of class time by pushing yourself to be creative and say and write as much as you can, rather than trying to finish quickly.
- Speak in Arabic while you are engaged in the activity. If you feel frustrated, raise your hand and ask for help.
- When your group finishes the task, raise your hand to let the instructor know.
- The instructor may call time before everyone is finished. If your group does not finish, you may want to take a few minutes after class to study the rest of the exercise.

أهلاً وسهلاً في صف اللغة العربية!