

**INTENSIVE ARABIC II**

اللغة العربية: الفصل الدراسي الثاني

**ARABIC 611C/ARA381J****SPRING 2013**

**INSTRUCTOR:**  
**OFFICE:**  
**OFFICE HOURS**  
**EMAIL:**

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:**  
**OFFICE:**  
**EMAIL:**

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

1. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-<sup>ḥ</sup>Arabiyya, Part 1* (Third Edition) by Brustad, Al-Batal & Al-Tonsi.
2. *Al-Kitaab Companion Website* (details to be provided in class)
3. *The Hans-Wehr dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition recommended, but earlier editions are acceptable. However, please note that you must have a Hans Wehr dictionary for work in this course.
4. *Blackboard*: In this class we will use Blackboard—a web-based course management system at <https://old.courses.utexas.edu/webapps/login/>—to distribute course materials, communicate online, post assignments, and post grades. You will receive emails with important course information from your instructor via Blackboard's email tool so be sure to check your email frequently.

*If you are missing any of the required materials, you can find them at Austin TXBooks/Beat the Bookstore at 2116 Guadalupe.*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this semester you will, إن شاء الله, have reached Intermediate proficiency in Arabic, which means that you will be able to:

1. speak about yourself and your environment, initiate and sustain conversations on a number of topics (e.g., family, friends, study, etc.) and narrate in present, past and future time frames.
2. initiate and maintain dialogue in both <sup>ḥ</sup>aammiyya (Colloquial Arabic) and FuSHaa (Standard Arabic) when appropriate
3. read texts on familiar topics and understand the main ideas without using the dictionary,
4. comprehend simple Arabic discourse dealing with familiar topics,
5. carry out written tasks connected to daily life and write short letters and essays, and
6. demonstrate familiarity with many aspects of Arab culture, such as social and religious customs and traditions, family life, and education.

In addition you will:

- recognize and use verbs in all major tenses, recognize and form complex sentence structures such as dependent clauses, and recognize and use negation patterns,
- add approximately 300 words to your active vocabulary, and
- learn the root-and-pattern system to be able to use an Arabic dictionary.

This course will continue the practice of introducing you simultaneously to formal Arabic along with one variety of spoken Arabic [either *MaSri* or *Shaami* depending on your instructor's choice. Our aim here is to prepare you to function in a range of situations and expose you to the varieties of Arabic and the many ways in which these varieties interact in real-life communication. In so doing, we embrace a dynamic view of Arabic reflecting authentic communication with and among native speakers across various contexts and geographical areas in the Arab world. While it is impossible to capture all the nuances of spoken Arabic in a single course, you will be introduced to tools that will enable you to function successfully within this exciting sociolinguistic environment.

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES:

### Academic Honesty:

- Do your own work.
- Using any means to obtain homework answers without doing the work, getting help from a fluent Arabic speaker, using *Google Translate*, using *Al-Kitaab Answer Key*, or having your work checked before submitting it are all violations of the UT Honor Code will be treated accordingly. These *and any other* academically dishonest behaviors will not be tolerated. **If you are in doubt of whether you are breaking this policy, please ask. Your honesty will be appreciated.**
- You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together; however, each student must participate fully in doing the work and submit his/her own individual answers. Doing otherwise violates the UT Honor Code and may result in disciplinary action.

### Language:

- Arabic is the language of our classroom; *you are expected to speak only in Arabic from the time you enter the classroom*. If you think you need to use English, please ask permission first. Controlling the urge to blurt out even a few words in English is an important part of keeping your brain in "Arabic-mode" and of maintaining our intensive learning environment. You will have the option of using English in office hours.

### Classroom Conduct:

- **Use of laptops and cell phones is not permitted.** Please put cell phones in silent mode (not just vibrate) and keep them in your backpack.
- Please **do not chew gum or eat in class**, as this prevents you from speaking! Drinks in spill-proof mugs and bottles are fine.

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION & COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance & Participation	15%
Homework Assignments	20%
Homework Correction	5%
Assessments (written and oral)	30%
Writing Portfolio & portfolio corrections	10%
Final Oral Interview	5%
Final Exam	15%

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION/COURSE REQUIREMENTS IN DETAIL:

### 1. Attendance & Participation: (15%)

#### Attendance Policies:

- Daily attendance is mandatory.
- If you are absent from class you will receive a “0” for that day’s attendance and participation. Your **lowest 3 grades for attendance and participation will be dropped when calculating your final grade at the end of the semester.**
- **More than ten absences—whatever the reason—will result in an "F" for the course.**
- Please inform your instructor by email of absence as soon as possible *before—not after*—the class you will miss. The absence will not be excused but informing your instructor of an absence helps considerably in planning for daily class activities.
- If you are ill and cannot come to class, do your best to contact your instructor before class and to stay caught up on class. Check with a classmate to see what you missed.

#### Tardiness Policy:

Arriving late to class is disruptive, so please make every effort to be in class and ready to start working when class begins. Attendance and participation points will be deducted for tardiness as follows: arrival during first 5 mins. of class = 1 Pt.; during first 10 mins. = 2 Pts.; during first 15 mins. = 3 Pts.; during first 20 mins. = 4 Pts. If you arrive more than 20 mins. late for class you will receive a “0” for that day’s class participation and attendance and it will count as an absence in applying the absence policy.

Class time will be devoted to **activating** the vocabulary and structures that you have prepared at home through your homework. At least two thirds of class time will be spent doing activities in pairs and small groups. Thus, attendance and active participation in class is paramount for significant language proficiency gains and good in-class performance. This part of your grade will be based on a daily “attendance and participation” rating assigned by your instructor and TA according to the following criteria:

- 5- You are **actively** engaged in developing your Arabic proficiency and communicating **in Arabic as much as possible** with your partner/classmates/teachers from the moment you walk into the class until you leave it. Full credit will be given when you
  - i. are ready to begin class on time,
  - ii. are well prepared for the class. This means that you have listened to recorded materials on the companion web site/CD, learned the new vocabulary well enough to be ready to activate it in class without referring to your book, read the grammar explanations carefully and done the homework drills based on these explanations before coming to class,
  - iii. submit fully completed homework at the beginning of class,
  - iv. are alert,
  - v. participate actively when we are working together as a class,
  - vi. make maximum use of pair/group work time by
    - a) understanding the learning objectives of tasks assigned,
    - b) staying focused on those objectives,
    - c) continuing to work with your partner on the task objectives even if you “finish” an assigned task before the allotted time is up (Ask your TA or instructor for additional instructions if you aren’t sure what to do next), and
  - vii. maintain the “Arabic as much as possible” policy.
- 4- You are present but lacking in one of the above criteria for full credit in participation.
- 3- You are present but lacking in two of the criteria.

- 2- You are present but lacking in three of the above criteria.
- 1- You are present but lacking in more than three of the above criteria. For instance, you come late to class, submit incomplete homework, use English to say something that you could say in Arabic and are not focused on the assigned task during group work.
- 0- You are absent or more than 20 minutes late

## 2. Homework Assignments (20%)

To prepare for the learning that takes place through practice in class, you will listen to, read and study new material at home. This material will not be presented in class. Expect to spend an average of two hours on learning new material, writing homework, and reviewing every night. Note that the assigned **homework at the companion website is required homework**. Failure to complete that online portion of the homework will result in points being deducted from your homework grade.

Homework assignments (online and written) should be submitted by the start of class. Late homework assignments will not be accepted without prior permission from your instructor. When submitting homework:

1. Write your name in Arabic.
2. Write the homework number (from assignment schedule).
3. Hand-write your assignments, unless instructed otherwise on the weekly schedule. The reason is to work on improving handwriting and increase familiarity with the Arabic script.
4. Staple pages together or use a paperclip
5. Double space. This gives your instructor and TA room to provide feedback.

Failure to do any of the above may result in points lost.

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.

Homework assignments will be evaluated on a **scale of 1 to 5** (5= excellent; 4= good but not your best effort; 3= mediocre; 2= poor; 1= very poor). Your homework will be rated on the overall quality of your work, not merely on the number of correct or incorrect answers. Note that you do not have to get everything 100% correct on your homework in order to get a "5" but each assignment should reflect 1) the time you have spent studying the new material and examples, and 2) your best effort to use that new material in your work.

Your **lowest three (3) homework ratings** will be dropped when calculating your final grade.

We expect you to write out your homework assignment **in full sentences**. You will not receive full credit for submitting only the words from a fill-in-the-blank exercise or submitting a Xeroxed copy of the exercise from the book. The aim of the homework exercises is not only to build your vocabulary, but also to recycle and reinforce the vocabulary and grammatical structures that you already know. By writing out the exercise in full, you will notice details of the language (such as spelling and grammatical details) that you may have missed the first time around. Furthermore, you incorporate your new vocabulary in context rather than producing a simple list, and you increase your writing speed. Because a simple list only meets one aim of the exercise, we consider it incomplete, and you may lose up to one point on your homework grade for this reason.

Be sure your work on the homework assignments reflects your best effort and preparation. If you have any questions about how an assignment will be graded, please ask your instructor.

### **A note about Al-kitaabtextbook.com Companion website:**

Put your best effort into the work you do on the website. Your instructors have access to records of how you perform on each assigned exercise on the website. Last semester, we found some students were clicking the “submit” button before actually attempting to answer any of the questions. Presumably this is because they wanted to have the answers given so as to reproduce them on their next attempt. **You will NOT learn this way.**

The learning process involves you reading the explanation and examples of the vocabulary and grammar in the book, attempting answers in the drills on the web site based on what you understand and then getting feedback on your understanding so that you can adjust that understanding. If you do not make an attempt, but simply copy the answers given, you are not developing that understanding, and hence not learning! Please know that we will be monitoring this situation. If you do your homework on the web this way, you will not receive credit for it. We are implementing this policy in order to give you an incentive to do what is best for your learning.

Also, please note that, when doing the drills on *Al-Kitaab* companion website, **you are free to redo any drill as many times as you wish** to help you improve your percentage of correct answers. So, take advantage of the fact that you can re-attempt any drill many times before you decide to move to another drill.

### **Homework Corrections: (5%)**

Mistakes on homework are a natural and useful part of the learning process. For you to really learn from mistakes, you need to go back and correct them. When you submit your homework the first time, your instructor or TA will underline or circle the mistakes and label them with correction symbols using the correction code posted on Blackboard. For several assignments, you will be asked to make corrections based on this feedback.

When correcting an assignment, go over it carefully and in full. Correct mistakes (using a different color ink or pencil) on the original paper next to what you wrote originally. Be sure you are putting your best effort into corrections. Please submit corrections according to your schedule; late corrections will not be accepted. You will receive credit for your corrections based on the quality of your work and the improvement demonstrated in the corrected version of your homework. If the corrections are not complete, no correction credit will be given. If you have any questions about a correction you aren't sure about, check with your instructor or TA. They will be happy to help.

### **3. Assessments (Written Exams, Oral Assessments): (30%)**

During the semester we will have **five** written quizzes and a number of oral assignments in and out of class, at least two of which will be evaluated as oral assessments. More details about evaluations will be posted throughout the semester. Exact dates of major written exams will be announced on your homework schedules at least a week in advance

Each major written exam may include vocabulary, grammar, and a skill-focused section (such as reading, listening, or writing). You will be asked to write short vowels when you are tested on vocabulary, so please plan your studying accordingly.

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.

TENTATIVE Major Written Exam Dates (exact dates to be announced in your homework schedule)

<b>Week of 8 January 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week of February 10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week of March 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week of April 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Week of April 22<sup>nd</sup></b>

#### **4. Writing Portfolio & Portfolio Corrections: (10%)**

This semester you will create a writing portfolio of essays in Arabic to practice the new vocabulary and structures you are learning in class. The first draft will be commented on by a writing buddy from class or by your instructors and returned to you for revision. When you submit the revised version, please submit the original version also so that your instructor can evaluate the extent to which you were able to make the requested revisions.

We expect to do six writing portfolio entries this semester. The due dates and guidelines for your portfolio entries and revisions will be specified in your homework schedule. Late writing will not be accepted. All entries (original and revised) need to be typed in Arabic. More information on typing in Arabic will be available via Blackboard.

Your revised writing entry will be graded on a scale of 1 to 5 as follows:

- 5= your writing 1) meets the length requirement, 2) communicates your ideas successfully; 3) uses new vocabulary with correct meaning; 4) uses the required # of new vocabulary words; 4) uses new structures we are learning, and 5) shows improvement from the first draft.
- 4= does not meet one of the above criteria needed to earn a 5
- 3= does not meet two of the above criteria
- 2= does not meet three of the above criteria
- 1= does not meet any of the above criteria

#### **5. Final Interview: (5%)**

We will also have a final interview, worth 5% of the final grade, to be held during the last week of class and finals week. More information will be given near the end of the semester.

#### **6. Final Examination: (15%)**

The final examination will be comprehensive and will test reading, writing, and listening in addition to vocabulary and grammar.

The final examination dates will be announced as soon as they are set by the university. Email your instructor by May 1st if you need to take the makeup final. Requests to take the makeup final will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Final Grade Calculation and Grade Policies

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-

- Extra credit may be available; more information will be given in class.
- Grades on the border between two letter grades (89.9 for instance) may or may not be rounded up to the next higher letter grade, at the instructor’s discretion.
- You must earn a C or higher to continue to the next UT Arabic course. Thus, if you take this course pass/fail, you will not be eligible to continue to the next Arabic course. Auditing is not permitted and incompletes will not be given in this course.
- Your instructor will record your grades regularly. It is your responsibility to check your grades regularly. If you notice any grade that you have a question about, you are welcome to 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, please bring the particular assignment (homework, corrections, writing portfolio entries, etc.) to your instructor to discuss it.

### HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS

**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. The following suggestions will help you get the most out of the 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 of 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 new material. This will help you to prepare for the activities we'll be doing in class.

5. **Develop your memorization skills.** Experiment with different techniques, combining listening, speaking and writing together as much as possible. Cross-train: Try the following and find what combination of techniques works best for you:
  - listening to words and repeating them aloud—not once but ten or twenty times, until the word is easy for you to pronounce
  - using flashcards—but without English definitions, and make yourself say the word aloud and use it in a phrase or sentence
  - writing out vocabulary over and over—but remember to pronounce it out loud while you write!
  - putting the words in sentences or a paragraph or story
  - studying in groups and quizzing each other
  - using word association techniques
6. **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.
7. **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, you may write a translation or a question on your homework for your instructor to check or answer.
8. **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. 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.
9. **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.
10. **Work with our instructional support team.** The UT Arabic program offers you a unique opportunity to work with a talented instructional support team made up of some of our successful undergraduate Arabic language learners. Take advantage of this opportunity and schedule regular appointments with them. They can help you understand the linguistic and cultural aspects of Arabic and provide you with opportunities to practice your Arabic. In addition, you may ask them about strategies that helped them in their journey of learning Arabic. Your instructor will provide you with their names, schedules, and contact information.

## Principles for Group Activities

There can be no language without community. 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 personal trainer. Learning a language is a lot like going to the gym: the personal trainer guides you and pushes you to do your best, but you have to do the work to get the benefit.

Please keep in mind the following principles for group work:

- Speak in Arabic. If you need help, ask for it from your classmates, TA or instructor.
- Help and encourage your colleagues, and accept help from them: each of you can learn *with* and *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.
- Stay focused on the task at hand and do not rush to finish. Most activities are designed to elicit creative play with vocabulary and structures on which we are working. Take advantage of class time by pushing yourself to be creative and say and write as much as you can. If your group finishes a task before others, use your remaining time constructively with your partner and continue working on your Arabic.
- The instructor may call time before everyone is finished. If your group does not finish or you still have questions, ask your instructor after class or during office hours.

أهلاً وسهلاً  
ومية مرحباً بكم في صف اللغة العربية!!!