

**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Basic Standard Arabic**

**Fall 2023**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Classroom:** Blg. 8, Room 13  
**Teacher:** ELBAKILI Jaouad  
**Time:** MWF 1:00 pm -1:50pm  
**Office hours:**  MWF 15:00 pm to 16:00 pm

**Office Location:** Blg.6, Room 9

(Outside my office hours you are always welcome to call to arrange a meeting)

**أهلاً وسهلاً بكم**

**Course Description**

This course is designed for students who have some basic knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), and they speak an Arabic dialect.  
Students will develop proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) for the intermediate level through extensive reading and writing, listening, and speaking. The focus will be on reading and writing. Students’ dialect will be used to help them acquire MSA.

In the first half of this course, students will be introduced to basic topics in MSA through the book Al Kitaab to expand their vocabulary, their knowledge of grammar, sharpen their listening skills and push them towards writing more in Arabic. In the second part of the semester, the students will be exposed to media Arabic and literary Arabic texts.

**Intended Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students are expected to have acquired proficiency in the following skills:

After completing this course, the student is expected to have achieved the following:

**1.1 Speaking:**

At the end of this course, students can:

* Have a fairly good control of MSA when speaking about daily activities
* Handle successfully communicative tasks in simple face-to-face situations.
* Express personal meaning by creating with the language by combining and
* recombining known elements in sentences and strings of sentences.
* Engage in a variety of daily conversations on numerous concrete topics.

**1.2 Listening:**

* Understand simple, sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in a variety of basic personal and social contexts.
* Get some meaning from oral texts typically understood by Advanced level listeners.
* Understand meaning based on context.

**1.3 Reading:**

* Understand texts that convey basic information in announcements and notices.
* Understand messages found in highly familiar, everyday contexts.
* Understand meaning based on contextual clues.

**1.4 Writing:**

* Write short simple facts and ideas in a series of loosely connected sentences on topics of personal and social needs.
* Use basic vocabulary and structures to express meaning.
* Write on familiar topics: information, preferences, daily routine and respond to personal questions.

**3. Grade Distribution and Course Requirements**

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| --- | --- |
| **Quizzes and Oral Presentations** | **15%** |
| **Attendance and Participation** | **10%** |
| **Homework Assignments** | **10%** |
| **Midterm Exam** | **25%** |
| **Unit Journal & Journal Correction** | **15%** |
| **Final Exam** | **25%** |

**Unit Quizzes and Oral Presentations (15%)**

• This semester, there will be four quizzes following the completion of one or two units in the Al-Kitaab textbook or reading of a collection of articles and stories. Each quiz is going to take 50 minutes. There will also be a number of oral assignments in and out of class, at least two of which will be evaluated as oral

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assessments. The exact dates will be posted on your homework schedules. On the tentative schedule for this course you will find tentative dates for your quizzes.

These quizzes will focus on the new material learned in each unit, with varying emphasis on dictation, writing, grammar, speaking and listening skills.  
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.

**Unit Homework Assignments (10%)**

* The homework schedule shows the homework due each class period. You are responsible for completing all the homework listed even if we have not reviewed the related topic in class. There may also be additional homework for each unit, which I will announce in class or on Jenzabar.
* All homework assignments will be due in class as shown on the homework schedule. Your homework will be collected and/or checked in class by the instructor for completion and overall effort and accuracy.
* Homework assignment 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. You will learn to type in Arabic writing your journal, your midterm and final project.  
5. Double space. This gives your instructor room to provide feedback.

* Pay close attention to the instructor’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.
* I 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.

**Homework Corrections:**

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 will underline or circle the mistakes and label them with correction symbols using the correction code posted on the LMS Jenzabar. 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 either receive credit

(marked with a✓) or no credit (marked with a✓-) 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. She will be happy to help.

**Unit Journal & Journal Correction: (15%)**

This semester you will create a journal in Arabic to practice the new vocabulary and structures you are learning in class. The first draft will be commented by your instructor and returned to you for revision. Then you will type it and post it online.  
I expect you to do six portfolio entries this semester.

**Midterm Project: (25%)**

In week 4 you have to begin working on your midterm project. You will choose a topic you want to investigate, do 5 video interviews with people you know, and you will report in writing about those interviews. You will get more details about how to do your mid- term project.

**End of Semester Project: (25%)**

In week 9, you will be begin working on your final project. You will choose a topic within your area of studies, you will do interviews, read articles and listen to news in order to write your final paper. You will get more details about how to do your final project.

**Attendance and Participation:**

Daily attendance is mandatory.

**More than seven 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.

**4. 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. If you arrive more than 20 mins. late for class 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.

**FinaL GRADE SCALE:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A = 4.0 = 94-100**  **A- = 3.67=90–93** | **B+ = 3.33 = 87–89**  **B = 3.0 = 84–86**  **B- = 2.67 = 80–83** | **C+ = 2.33 = 77 - 79**  **C = 2.0 = 74–76**  **C- = 1.67 = 70–73** | **D+ = 1.33 = 65–69**  **D = 1.00 = 60 -64** |

* + 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.
  + 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.
  + This syllabus is subject to change. However, any changes will be brought to the attention of students in writing via e-mail communication and also verbally in class.

**\*** *instructor may occasionally make changes and inform the students ahead*

*of time.*

**5. Course Materials**

1. Al-Kitaab fii Ta3allum al 3arabiyya. Part1 (Third Edition) by Brustad, Al-Batal and Al-Tounsi
2. A collection of articles from the Arabic media and a collection of short stories.
3. The Hans-Wehr dictionary of Modern Written Arabic. 4th Edition recommended, but earlier editions are acceptable. However, please note that you must have a Hans

Wehr dictionary for work in this course.

1. Canvas: in this class will use Canvas, a web-based course management system at

Al Akhawayn University to watch films, distribute course materials, communicate online, post assignments, and post grades. You will receive important information from your instructor via Canvas email tool so be sure to check your e-mail on a daily basis.

**IMPORTANT COURS POLICIES**

* + **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

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

* + **Language**

o 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.

* + **Classroom Conduct**

o Use of laptops (Unless requested by the instructor) and cell phones is not permitted. Please put your phones in silent mode (not just vibrate) and keep them in your back pack. Texting in class will result in deduction from your participation grade.

o Please do not chew gum or eat in class, as this prevents you from speaking! Drinks in spill-proof mugs and bottles are fine.

* + **Checklist:**

The following checklist may prove helpful to verify whether you have thoroughly assimilated each new lesson in your textbook.

1. Can you read the new text aloud without hesitation at a reasonable speed?
2. Did you model your pronunciation of the new lesson on the audiotape? Listening

to the tape once or twice or even three times may not be enough.

1. Can you understand the text when listening to it on the tape or sight-reading it,

without referring to vocabulary lists or dictionaries?

1. Did you practice the new vocabulary items by using them in meaningful Arabic

sentences different than those provided in the book.

1. Are you able to report on or summarize the content of the new lesson with facility

(i.e. at a reasonable speed without looking in the book)?

**Study Habits:**

1. Keep a separate notebook for grammar.
2. Let a colleague/friend proofread your written compositions.

**بالتوفيق إن شاء الله**