**Michigan State University**

Arabic 301: Advanced Arabic I

Summer 2020

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Instructor:**  **E-mail:** | **Class Time:** |
| **Office Hours:**  **Syllabus Outline:** [Course Description:](#_Course_Description:)[Course Objectives:](#_Course_Objectives:) **[Approach and Technique:](#_Approach_and_Technique:)**  **[Course Requirements:](#_Course_Requirements:)**  **[Daily Preparation and Homework:](#_Daily_Preparation_and)**  **[Tests and Exams:](#_Tests_and_Exams:)**  **[Class Participation:](#_Class_Participation:)**  [**Use of Arabic**](#_Use_of_Arabic:)  **[Journals:](#_Journals:)**  **[Required Texts:](#_Required_Texts:)**  **[Access Listening Materials:](#_Access_Listening_Materials:)**  **[Online newspapers:](#_Online_newspapers:)**  **[Websites:](#_Websites:)**  **[Evaluation](#_Evaluation:)** [**Grading Scale**](#_Grading_Scale:) **[Course Policy:](#_Course_Policy:)**  **[Academic Honesty](#_Academic_Honesty)** [**Plagiarism**](#_Plagiarism)  [**Spartan Code**](#_Spartan_Code_of)  **[Accommodation for Disabilities:](#_ACCOMMODATIONS_FOR_DISABILITIES:)**  **[Classroom Etiquette:](#_CLASSROOM_ETIQUETTE:)**  **[Communications:](#_COMMUNICATIONS:)**  **[Technology:](#_TECHNOLOGY:)**    **Access Listening Materials:** Course Description: This course aims to move students from a lower intermediate to a higher intermediate level of Modern Standard Arabic with attention paid to all four language skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing.  The teaching and learning process in this course is communication-based, meaning that emphasis is placed on functional usage of the language and on communication in context rather than on the conscious learning of grammatical rules. Preparation of the basic text, including reading of grammatical notes, vocabulary memorization, and spelling, is the student’s responsibility. Students should be prepared to answer questions and to discuss topics pertaining to the content of the text and use vocabulary in various contexts. Arabic is the only medium of class instruction. The textbook contains grammatical explanations in English, which students should examine at their own pace. The instructor will select some grammatical structures for explanation in class. Nevertheless, the course emphasizes the acquisition of grammatical structures by use rather than by explanation. |

# Course Objectives:

# By the end of the course, students will be able to:

**Reading:**

* Understand the main idea of authentic texts written for general public on familiar topics of interest (after the first reading without relying on the dictionary);
* Understand some supporting details after the second reading;
* Draw conclusions about the author’s attitude (objectivity, enthusiasm ...).
* Use reading strategies (skimming, scanning, making inferences, reading for detail, etc.) appropriate for different types of reading (intensive academic reading, reading for pleasure, etc.);
* Employ analytical reading and critical thinking skills to understand different types of texts;
* Express opinions about an idea, attitude, issue or phenomenon;
* Analyze various organizational and linguistic aspects in a text; and
* Evaluate the content and/or the organizational aspects of a specialized article.

**Listening:**

* Understand the general and main ideas of authentic audio/visual material on familiar topics introduced within the framework of news programs, political commentaries, interviews, talk shows, live lectures, etc. after the first listening; and
* Understand the supporting details of the main ideas after second listening.

**Speaking:**

* Use MSA to express opinions, describe attitudes and perform academic and functional tasks;
* Develop conversational skills to discuss topics of interest using a variety of language functions (e.g. clarification, description, comparison, reasoning, argumentation, supporting ideas with the appropriate evidence, etc.);
* Express ideas at the paragraph level; and
* Give short presentations on topics of choice.

**Writing:**

* Compose and develop text at the paragraph level using a variety of language functions (e.g. clarification, description, comparison, reasoning, argumentation, supporting ideas with the appropriate evidence, etc.); and
* Write texts on different topics using the styles and genres appropriate for the purpose of writing (e.g. letters, articles, narratives, etc.).

**Grammar:**

* Recognize and use correct word, sentence and text level grammar in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

**Vocabulary:**

* Guess the meaning of words from context;
* Recognize the different meanings and connotations of words; and
* Use a variety of strategies for continuous vocabulary building (e.g. various forms of derivation).

**Culture**

* Demonstrate awareness of cultural issues, such as ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic plurality in the Arab world; and
* Discuss different aspects of Arabic culture and literature.

# Required Texts

1. Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Tūnisī, A. (2013). *Al-Kitaab fii taʻallum al-ʻArabiyya, Part Two: A textbook for intermediate Arabic.* 3rd Edition. Georgetown University Press.
2. Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Tūnisī, A. (2011). *Al-Kitaab fii taʻallum al-ʻArabiyya, Part Two: A textbook for intermediate Arabic.* **2nd Edition**. Georgetown University Press.

<https://www.noorart.com/Al-Kitaab-fii-Taallum-al-Arabiyya-with-DVDs?gclid=Cj0KCQjw4f35BRDBARIsAPePBHxNxyoecyRRLgRrWiJbNojGNRMI4JNHLP84ppLbhfGKGIOV0UHGnIkaAllkEALw_wcB>

1. Arabic-English and English-Arabic dictionary
2. Supplementary material provided by the instructor

# Approach and Technique:

Memorization of new vocabulary through preparation of the basic texts and studying the grammatical notes provided in the textbook will take place outside classroom. Time in class will be devoted to reinforcing vocabulary and grammar through various drills and activities as well as to concentrated listening, reading and oral expression activities.

# Course Requirements:

Attendance and Punctuality: Regular class attendance and active participation are required; attendance will be taken. Absences will be excused only in case of severe illness, family emergencies, or other reasons approved by the instructor. You are allowed three excused and three unexcused absences. An unexcused absence is when a student is absent without a compelling reason as explained above. Each additional instance will bring the final grade DOWN by a full letter grade (from 4.0 to 3.5, 3.5 to 3.0; 3.0 to 2.5; 2.5 to 2.0 ..). Four absences in addition to the six mentioned above will automatically take the grade down to an “F”

# Daily Preparation and Homework:

It is essential that students come properly prepared to each and every class by having thoroughly completed whatever advance work is required for each day’s lesson (e.g., listening to the vocabulary and Basic Text on the DVD several times over, studying the grammar sections diligently, carefully preparing vocabulary and grammar drills etc.).

Students are encouraged to spend at least 2 hours per day on homework and required activities. Assignments must be completed on time. As a rule, late assignments will not be accepted, except for a reason approved by the instructor.

Homework must be turned in in D2L. I will create a Dropbox where you can post your HW. Include the date and title of each homework assignment.

# Tests and Exams:

Over the course of the semester, students will have:

(a) Daily home assignments. You are expected to submit the assignments on time. All assignments, including late ones, will be recorded, but late ones will impact your grade.

(b) Two 25-minute tests.

(c) One mid-term examination to be held on **Thursday, 10/22.**

(d) One, 2-hour final examination to be administered at the end of the semester. The final will cover the vocabulary and structures, reading and listening comprehension.

(e) Oral Presentation: For the presentation, you are expected to choose a topic in consultation with your instructor during the last two weeks of classes. When delivering your presentation, you could only use notes (index cards); you cannot read the essay you wrote. Grading this part will be based on both the essay and the presentation and will take into consideration the topic chosen, coherence, the sophistication of the vocabulary and grammatical structures used. You are encouraged to use visual aids, e.g. power point. The presentation is expected to take about seven minutes, and will have an additional five to seven-minute window for questions and answers.

# (f) Journals:

Each student will be required to write four journal entries throughout the semester. Each entry should be at least one page double-spaced. Students are expected to incorporate into their journals new vocabulary and grammatical structures learned in class. The instructor will assign specific topics, and provide further guidelines. Journals are due on **September 28**, **October 26**, **November 16** and **November 30**.

# Class Participation:

Since much of the curriculum is built around activities conducted exclusively during class time (such as the listening, reading and speaking components of the course), active and enthusiastic participation in class is an absolute requirement for all students. Students should come to class each day well prepared and ready to take an active role.

## Use of Arabic:

Students will use Arabic in the classroom. Every other Friday (alternating with quizzes), classes will be dedicated to conversation and activities that enrich the students’ personalized use of Arabic for communicative purposes.

# Required Texts:

1- Al-Tonsi, A., Al-Batal, M., Brustad, K., *Al-Kitaab fii Ta`allum al-`Arabiyya*: A Textbook for Arabic, Part One and Part Two, 3nd edition, Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2011.

2- Brustad et al. *al-Kitaab fii ta’allum al-Lughah al-‘Arabiyyah*. Part Two. Second Edition. Washington: Georgetown University Press (second edition).

Note: You can find this textbook at the bookstore. You can also find it online. Here is the link:

<https://www.noorart.com/Al-Kitaab-fii-Taallum-al-Arabiyya-with-DVDs?gclid=Cj0KCQjw4f35BRDBARIsAPePBHxNxyoecyRRLgRrWiJbNojGNRMI4JNHLP84ppLbhfGKGIOV0UHGnIkaAllkEALw_wcB>

3- J M. Cowan, Ed. The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic. (Fourth Edition).

4- Handouts from instructor from various sources:

* Articles from Arabic newspapers and magazines
* Arabic songs, short stories, and/or poetry
* Miscellaneous supplementary materials, drills, and assignments to be handed out in class

# Access Listening Materials:

To have access to the listening materials in Al-Kitaab please visit this website:

<https://alkitaabtextbook.com/>

Then, click on Al-Kitaab part II and then click on Third Edition. After that you need to select the appropriate (i.e. lesson 1 or 2 etc.). Once you select the appropriate lesson, scroll down to the required drill.

As for the Al-Kitaab Part II second edition, the book comes with CDs.

# Online newspapers:

1- <http://www.asharqalawsat.com/> 2- <http://www.ahram.org.eg/> 3- <http://www.alhayat.com/>

4- <http://www.annahar.com/> 5- <http://www.alkhaleej.co.ae/>

# Websites:

<http://www.e-arabic.com/deutsche-wella-arabic-news-radio-podcasts->

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,2142,613,00.html>

<http://www.rtarabic.com/>

<http://www.alhurra.com/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/arabic/news/>

<http://arabic.cnn.com/>

<http://www.alarabiya.net/>

[http://www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net/)

<http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org/Visit-the-Museum.id.5.htm>

# Evaluation:

It is estimated that each student with a solid background in the previous semesters will have to devote ten hours per week for preparation outside of class. The credits earned for this class are at the "advanced" level and therefore require greater preparation time. Students who must put in effort to review material covered in previous semesters should be aware that their time commitment should be greater that stated above.

20% Home Work assignments, online modules, and participation (in-class assignments).

20% Two tests on **9/24; and 11/19**

15% One Midterm Exam to be held on **Thursday, 10/22**

15% Oral Performance: 5 minutes to be conducted from November 30 to December 3rd.

%5 Tea Hour (More details in class).

10% Four journal entries beginning **Monday** **9/8**, and every three weeks thereafter (**/28, 10/19, 11/9**).

15% Final Exam will cover grammar, reading and listening comprehension, as well as vocabulary TBA.

## Grading Scale:

**91-100: 4.0   85-90: 3.5   80-84: 3.0   75-79: 2.5**

**70-74: 2.0   65-69 1.5   64-60: 1.0 0-59: 0.0**

# Course Policy:

## Academic Honesty

From Academic Integrity: MSU Policies, Regulations and Ordinances Regarding Academic Honesty and Integrity (Michigan State University's Office of the Ombudsperson, 2020):

Article 2.III.B.2 of the SRR states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the Department of Geography, Environment, & Spatial Sciences adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades ; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.

Students in this class have the right to expect that their fellow students are upholding the academic integrity of this University. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense at the University because it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty between members of the community and defrauds those who may eventually depend upon our knowledge and integrity. Such dishonesty consists of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Michigan State University has established a range of penalties for students guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Appropriate penalties include suspension or expulsion from the university, a failing grade for a course, a failing grade for the assignment, or a reduced grade on a redone assignment. All instances of serious plagiarism are reported to the Dean of Students.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a specific type of academic misconduct defined as the effort to fundamentally use someone else's ideas as your own . Studies show that plagiarism is common at most universities, especially in online classes since it is easy to copy directly from the course site (or other websites) and put those exact words, or most of the words, in an answer.

According to Michigan State University's Office of the Ombudsperson (2020):

Plagiarism may be accidental or blatant or self-plagiarism. However, students are held to the same standards whether or not they knew they were plagiarizing or whether or not they were plagiarizing themselves or someone else.

If your instructor suspects that part or all of an answer has been plagiarized *in any way or form* , you will be contacted immediately--plagiarized content is given **0 points** .

## Spartan Code of Honor

As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do. ( Spartan Code of Honor ) Student conduct that is inconsistent with the academic pledge is addressed through existing policies, regulations, and ordinances governing academic honesty and integrity: MSU Policies, Regulations and Ordinances Regarding Academic Honesty and Integrity .

**Any student who commits an act of academic misconduct** (including academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards, or falsification of academic records; click here to read the University policy ), **will be** **reported to the University via the Academic Dishonesty Report portal** . The type of misconduct and penalty,

as well as a detailed account of the violation are submitted and will be accessible to the student’s Associate Dean, designee, and Instructor-of-Record.

# Accommodations for Disabilities:

Your success in this class is important. If you have a disability or particular circumstance that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact me immediately so that we can work together to adapt assignments to meet your needs and the requirements of the course. Students need to provide documentation of a disability to this office in order to receive official university services and accommodations.

# Classroom Etiquette:

All students of the Arabic program expected to observe the following:

(1) to observe decorum as would be expected in an Arabic-speaking country, such as not placing one's foot on an adjacent chair or table. (If one were to point the sole of one's footwear towards another, this is considered particularly insulting to the other party in many Middle Eastern societies.)

(2) to refrain from using cell phones or other electronic device in any non-classroom activity.

# Communications:

We will meet via Zoom four times a week from Monday till Thursday. My office hours will be held Via Zoom or on **Fridays 12:30-1:30** **PM** ET by appointment. I will be emailing you with update and further instructions about the various requirements regularly. Should you have any question, please email me at [sissa@msu.edu](mailto:sissa@msu.edu). I will be checking my email quite frequently every day 7 days a week. I can also arrange meetings via Zoom in case you have any questions.

# Technology:

Students need to be able to use computers and have access to the internet. Our class will be conducted via Zoom app. Please visit this webpage to familiarize yourself with Zoom:

<https://msu.zoom.us/>

Please, feel free to e-mail me ([sissa@msu.edu](mailto:sissa@msu.edu)) in case you have any questions about how to create a Zoom account and/or how to use it. I will walk you through how to use Zoom when we meet the first time via Zoom.

For **technical support**, please visit this website:

<https://tech.msu.edu/support/help/>

The link has the main IT Service Desk contact information, and information about Computer Repair, NetIDs & Spartan ID Cards, Library Resources, and Telecommunications.

Here is also the link for MSU Tech data policy <https://tech.msu.edu/about/guidelines-policies/msu-institutional-data-policy/>

Further, here some links to resource centers:

<https://writing.msu.edu/> <https://lib.msu.edu/> <https://oss.msu.edu/>

<https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/>

<https://ombud.msu.edu/>

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change upon the recommendation of your instructor and your progress. External materials might also be used as parts of the curriculum at different points of the semester.