Beginning Arabic I
(ARBC 0101 – all sections)

Middlebury College
Fall 2020
Sept 8, 2020

Arabic 101 sections and instructors
• There are four sections for Arabic 101:
  - Sections A and B are blended classes.
  - Sections C and D are online classes.
• If you’re registered in Section A or C, your instructor of record is Prof. Samuel Liebhaber.
• If you’re registered in Section B or D, your instructor of record is Prof. Usama Soltan.

Class meetings for each section
(all listed times are Eastern)
• Section A: MWF 10:20-11:10 (online via Zoom), and TR 8:00-9:15 (in person, in Sunderland 130).
• Section B: MWF 11:30-12:20 (online via Zoom), and TR 11:10-12:25 (in person, in Warner 207).
• Section C: MWF 10:20-11:10 (online via Zoom), and TR 1:40-2:55 (online via Zoom).
• Section D: MWF 11:30-12:20 (online via Zoom), and TR 1:40-2:55 (online via Zoom).

Links to Zoom sessions on MWF
• If you’re in Section A or C, join the MWF online sessions with Prof. Liebhaber via this Zoom link:
  https://middlebury.zoom.us/j/8024435598?pwd=bHJyeVkyTnlva35Y5c0hWbmVi5G1adz09
• If you’re in Section B or D, join the MWF online sessions with Prof. Soltan via this Zoom link:
  https://middlebury.zoom.us/j/8024435869?pwd=Vk1DDYwVEJ1UVY0MzY4cklXc2Z5UT09

Links to Zoom sessions on Tue/Thu
(Sections C and D only)
• If you’re in Section C or D, join the Tuesday online session with Prof. Soltan via this Zoom link:
  https://middlebury.zoom.us/j/8024435869?pwd=Vk1DDYwVEJ1UVY0MzY4cklXc2Z5UT09
• If you’re in Section C or D, join the Thursday online session with Prof. Liebhaber via this Zoom link:
  https://middlebury.zoom.us/j/8024435598?pwd=bHJyeVkyTnlva35Y5c0hWbmVi5G1adz09
Instructors’ contact info and office hours

- **Name:** Prof. Sam Liebhaber.
- **Office:** Voter lower level, Room 002.
- **Office phone extension:** x5598.
- **Email:** slieb@middlebury.edu.
- **Office Hours** *(in person or via Zoom)*
  - Tuesday, 9:30-11:00am
  - Wednesday, 2:00-3:30pm

Instructors’ contact info and office hours

- **Name:** Prof. Usama Soltan.
- **Office:** Voter lower level, Room 016.
- **Office phone extension:** x5869.
- **Email:** usoltan@middlebury.edu.
- **Office Hours** *(via this Zoom link)*
  - Mondays from 1:30 to 3:00.
  - Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:00.
  - And by appointment.

Textbooks and course materials

- **Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds (third edition),** by Brustad, Al-Batal, and Al-Tonsi. We will cover this book in the first half of the semester.
- **Al-Kitaab: A textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part I (third edition),** by Brustad, Al-Batal, and Al-Tonsi. We will cover the first four units of this book in the second half of the semester.
- Both books can be ordered via the college's online bookstore, or on Amazon. Just make sure you order the third edition.

Textbooks’ online resources

- You have two ways to access the online resources for the textbooks, and both are free.
- You can access the audio and video files as well as all the drills in a given chapter on the Smart Sparrow platform via the following links:
  - For Alif Baa, click [HERE](#).
  - For Al-Kitaab Part I, click [HERE](#).
- These links include all the drills in the books and have an interface that is easy to use.

Textbooks’ online resources

- You can also access the audio and video files via the following two links:
  - For Alif Baa, click [HERE](#).
  - For Al-Kitaab Part I, click [HERE](#).
- Notice that these links do not include all the drills in a given chapter.

Course website on WordPress

- The course has a website on WordPress: [http://sites.middlebury.edu/arabic101fall2020/](http://sites.middlebury.edu/arabic101fall2020/)
- The website has all the information relevant to the class, including this syllabus document.
- The most important link on the website is the one for the weekly schedules. There will occasionally be minor changes to the schedule, so do rely on the website for the most updated information.
Course description

• This is the first course in the Beginning Arabic sequence. It aims to introduce you to Arabic language and culture, with particular focus on formal Arabic, often called Modern Standard Arabic, the language of writing and formal speech in the Arab world, though aspects of spoken Arabic, particularly those related to daily life usage, are also introduced.
• The class focuses on developing your ability to use Arabic in all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Objectives of the course

• By the end of this course, you will be able to:
  1. Pronounce and distinguish between all Arabic sounds.
  2. Master the Arabic alphabet and write Arabic words accurately from dictation.
  3. Initiate social interactions and ask about basic information.
  4. Be able to talk in simple sentences about yourself, your study, and your family.

Objectives of the course

4. Listen to and comprehend simple audio texts in Arabic.
5. Read and understand simple authentic Arabic texts.
6. Write sentences and short paragraphs in Arabic about familiar topics connected to daily life.
7. Familiarize yourself with some of the differences between formal and spoken Arabic.
8. Have a general understanding of some aspects of Arab culture connected to everyday life.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (16%)

• You are expected to attend EVERY class. Also, you are expected to be in class on time. Arriving late to class disrupts class activities and inconveniences your instructor and classmates.
• While one or two unexcused absences may not affect your grade greatly, more than two unexcused absences definitely will.
• Excused or unexcused, if you know you’ll be missing a class, please do notify the instructor before or right after the class.

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<th>Course requirement</th>
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<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
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<td>A 100-word written essay</td>
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<td>Midterm (10%) and Final Exam (15%)</td>
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Attendance and Participation (16%)

- This is a student-centered class, so participation is a key component of classroom activities.
- We also adopt a flipped classroom approach. So, you are expected to come prepared for class activities (this means knowing what’s on the syllabus for that day, doing the assigned homework and reading sections from the textbook before coming to class, and studying the assigned vocabulary and grammar).
- That said, do not skip class if you are not fully prepared.

Co-curricular activities (6%)

- The co-curricular activities represent a cultural component of this class. To fulfill this course requirement, you need to do the following:
  - Attend at least two cultural activities organized by Jacob Adams, our Arabic TA. Announcements for these events will be made by the Arabic TA. (2%)
  - Attend two Arabic language tables in the second half of the semester. You will receive information on the language tables in due course. (1%)

Co-curricular activities (6%)

- The remaining 3% for the cultural component can be fulfilled via any of the following activities:
  - Watching an Arabic movie and submitting a 250-word report in English about it (2%).
  - Reading an Arabic poem in translation and submitting a 250-word report in English about it (1%).
  - Reading an Arabic short story in translation and submitting a 250-word report in English about it (2%).
  - Attending a lecture on the Arab world and submitting a 250-word report in English about it (2%).
  - Participating with the Arabic TA in the programming of the Arabic Department’s weekly radio broadcast (2%).

Homework Assignments (15%)

- Homework assignments are an integral part of this class and are crucial to help you learn the alphabet, the sounds, new vocabulary and grammar, and improve your proficiency in the four language skills.
- Assignments include exercises from the textbook and the online companion website, as well as any other work assigned by the instructor, e.g., role-play skits.

Homework Assignments (15%)

- There will be daily homework assignments.
- Written homework (marked as Hand in on the daily class schedule) is due on the date indicated on the schedule.
- You are expected to turn in the assignments on time. Late assignments will NOT be accepted, unless the delay is due to an academically legitimate reason.

Homework Assignments (15%)

- For students in sections A and B, homework due on Tuesdays and Thursdays is to be handed in in class. Homework due on all other days is to be submitted electronically to an online folder that will be created for each one of you.
- For students in sections C and D, all homework is to be submitted electronically via an online folder that will be created for each one of you.
Homework Assignments (15%)

• Make sure to skip lines in your submitted homework and leave some wide margins for instructors to write comments/corrections on your answers.

• For homework handed in in class, if you are turning in multiple pages, please make sure they are stapled together.

Homework assignments (15%)

• For homework submitted online, please do the following:
  1. Either scan or take pictures of all pages of your homework.
  2. Save your homework in one file.
  3. Name the file “your_name_homework#.”
  4. Place the file in the online subfolder that carries your name.

Homework assignments (15%)

• You will have access to the full answer key to homework exercises from the textbook.

• However, you should not access the answer key before doing the homework.

• You have to do the homework first, and then access the Answer Key, making corrections on the homework where needed.

• Note: Do not erase your incorrect answers. Rather, write the corrections above your original answers.

Homework Assignments (15%)

• Also, please turn in ‘neat’ work 😊. Sloppy work is easily detected and annoys your grader 😞.

• For each assignment make sure to write your name and include the number of the exercise (if it is from the textbook).

Periodic quizzes/tests (32%)

• There will be eight periodic quizzes/tests over the semester. These quizzes/tests are meant to assess your understanding of the materials covered in every unit, particularly the alphabet, the sound system, vocabulary, and grammar.

• Dates for quizzes will be posted on the daily schedule on the course website. Reminders will also be given in class.

A final group skit (3%)

• Each student is required to take part in a final group skit during the last week of classes (tentatively Tue-Wed Dec 1-2).

• The skits will take place on Zoom and will be recorded.

• Skits are expected to be done in groups of 3 students.

• More details on skits will be announced in due course.
A written Essay (3%)

- Each student is required to submit an Arabic written essay of 100 words (excluding names of people and places) on a topic of your choice to be approved by the instructor. The first version of the essay is due Thursday Nov 19th. The final version is due on the last day of classes, Fri Dec 4th.
- You need to consult with the instructor regarding what you want to write about. **Topics for the written essay are due Friday Nov 6th.** Simply write the topic on the homework due that day.

Exams (25%)

- There will be two exams: A **midterm exam** (worth 10%) and a **final exam** (worth 15%). The format of each exam will be announced in class in due time.
- The midterm is currently scheduled for **Thursday October 15th**.
- The final exam will be held during the finals week. The exact date/time will be announced once the exam schedule is posted on the College’s website.

Sources of Arabic help on campus

- If you have questions on course content, there are multiple sources of help available on campus.
- **First,** there are the instructor’s office hours. These are always available for you to ask questions.
- **Second,** our TA, Jacob Adams, holds regular office hours every week.

Sources of Arabic help on campus

- **Third,** we have Arabic tutors at the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research (CTLR). You should take advantage of this great opportunity to work on your Arabic language skills.
- As a bonus, if you meet with an Arabic tutor at least 5 times during the semester, you’ll receive a 1% of extra credit in this class.

Health and safety

- Please make sure to check [this College’s website link](#) regularly for updates.
- The [Return to Campus Guide](#) has plenty of relevant health and safety information as well as answers to some of the questions you may have.
- This [link](#) has information specifically for students.
- [This link](#) has answers to some FAQs.

Class rules

- Cell phones must be turned off before class.
- Eating is not allowed during class time. Beverages are fine, though.
- Coming to class late is disruptive, so please do show up to class on time.
Class rules

• Pair work and group work is **NOT** optional. You have to actively engage in it. This is the key to using language in conversation and to the activation of vocabulary and grammatical structures.
• **Lack of active participation in class activities will lower your participation percentage significantly.**

Some guidelines for Zoom sessions

• Please have your Zoom audio on mute when you’re not speaking. You should have your video on if you can.
• Use of headphones or earphones (like the ones you use with a cell phone) is recommended.
• To let me know that you have a question, simply click Participants, then click on the blue “raise hand” icon:

E-mail correspondence

• When corresponding with instructors, please follow standard e-mail practices. Remember: You’re e-mailing (not texting) the instructor.
• Your message should have a meaningful phrase in the subject line. You have to start with an appropriate salutation (e.g., Ahlan Prof. XXXX). Your message should be well written and clear. You should end it with one of the usual closing expressions (e.g., Shukran or Tahiyyati, etc.), and your name.
• Please note that e-mails received over the weekend may not receive an answer until Monday.

Academic Integrity

• As an academic community devoted to the life of the mind, Middlebury requires of every student complete intellectual honesty in the preparation and submission of all academic work. Details of our Academic Honesty, Honor Code, and Related Disciplinary Policies are available in Middlebury’s handbook.

Honor Code Pledge

• The College’s Honor Code pledge reads as follows: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment."
• It is the responsibility of the student to write out in full, adhere to, and sign the Honor Code pledge on all quizzes/tests, cultural activity reports, the final written essay, and the midterm and final exams.

The Honor Code

• Submitting work that is not your own, or that you did not participate in doing, is a violation of the Honor Code.
• If you have any questions about the code, please ask your instructor, or check the following link on the college’s website: [http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/administration/newfaculty/handbook/honorcode](http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/administration/newfaculty/handbook/honorcode)
Disability Resource Center (DRC)  
(formerly Student Accessibility Services)

- Students who have Letters of Accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact their instructor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- For those without Letters of Accommodation, assistance is available to eligible students through the Disability Resource Center. Please contact one of the two ADA Coordinators for information:
  - Jodi Litchfield at litchfie@middlebury.edu, or 802-443-5936.
  - Michelle Audette at maudette@middlebury.edu, or 802-443-2169.

Grading

- The following system will be used in assigning letter grades:
  - 95%+ is A
  - from 90%+ to 95% is A-
  - from 87%+ to 90% is B+
  - from 83%+ to 87% is B
  - from 80%+ to 83% is B-
  - from 77%+ to 80% is C+
  - from 73%+ to 77% is C
  - from 70%+ to 73% is C-
  - from 65%+ to 70% is D
  - from 60%+ to 65% is D-
  - 60% and under is F.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)  
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- Also, more information is available here: http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/doc/ada

- All discussions in this regard remain strictly confidential.

Good luck to all!