

صف اللغة العربية للمبتدئين
ARBC0103C/Spring 2013
جامعة ميدلبيري
فصل الربيع الدراسي لعام 2013

المحاضرة الأولى (11 فبراير 2013)

Logistics

Class meetings

MWF 10:10-11:00am, in Munroe 401.

TR: 11:00am-12:15pm, also in Munroe 401.

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Instructor

- Instructor: Usama Soltan
- Office Hours: Mondays from 11:15am to 12:15pm, and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm, and by appointment.
- Instructor's office: Farrell House, Room 206.
- Office phone extension: x5869

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Textbooks and course materials

- *Al-Kitaab: A textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part I*, by Brustad, Al-Batal & Al-Tonsi. Includes DVDs.
- Arabic-English dictionary by Hans Wehr.
- Supplementary materials prepared by the instructor.
- Course website on WordPress:
<http://blogs.middlebury.edu/arabic103spring2013/>

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Objectives of the course

- This is a continuation of ARBC0102, so it has the same objectives and will follow the same methods of learning Arabic as a foreign language. Here's a reminder of the objectives as they are stated in the introduction to your textbook:

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Objectives of the course

- By the end of this course, you should be able to:
 1. Read texts on familiar topics and understand the main ideas and contexts without constantly resorting to dictionaries.
 2. Speak about yourself, your family, your daily life and a number of other personal topics. You will also be able to initiate and sustain simple conversations.
 3. Carry out written transactions connected to daily life and simple correspondence.

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Objectives of the course

4. Form and understand almost all basic sentence structures of Arabic.
5. Grasp many aspects of Arab culture, such as customs and traditions, family life, education systems, and many dealings that take place in contemporary Arab culture.
6. Differentiate between formal and spoken Arabic, especially Egyptian dialect.

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Course Requirements

Course requirement	Percentage
Attendance & Participation	15%
Extracurricular Activities (Language tables, Arabic House, movie screenings)	10%
Homework assignments	20%
5 periodic Exams	15%
Oral Presentation	5%
Written Essay	5%
Midterm and Final Exams	30%

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Attendance and Participation (15%)

- You are expected to attend classes regularly. Please do your best NOT to come to class late.
- A class absence is only excused if it is accompanied by a note from your Commons' Dean or a physician.
- Excused or unexcused, if you know you'll be missing a class, please do notify me before or after the class.
- English is not allowed in class, and is typically permitted only when we talk about grammar.

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Attendance and Participation (15%)

- This is a student-centered class, so participation is a key component of classroom activities.
- You are expected to come prepared for class activities (this means checking the syllabus online, studying the indicated vocabulary and grammar, doing the assigned readings in the textbook, and actively participating in pair or group work). That said; please do not skip class if you are not fully prepared.
- You will also be asked to go to relevant events that take place on campus. Announcements for these will be made in due time both by e-mail and in class.

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Extracurricular Activities

- You are also required to attend and participate in the following Arabic-related extracurricular activities: the Arabic language table, the Arabic House events, and Arabic movie screenings.

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Language Table attendance (4%)

- Each student is required to go to the language table a total of **EIGHT** times over the semester.
- Students will sign up for these tables during the first week of classes, and start attending them in the second week.
- You will be notified by Elsa, our TA, to choose your language table schedule.

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Arabic House attendance (3%)

- You are required to attend at least **THREE events at the Arabic House** over the course of the semester.
- The three events count for 3% of your overall percentage.
- Announcements for these will be made by Elsa via e-mail.

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Movie screenings (3%)

- You are also required to go to **TWO Arabic movie screenings**, and write a 100-word report in Arabic on each.
- Each report is due no later than a week after the date of the screening.
- Announcements for the movie series will be sent by e-mail during the semester.

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Other extracurricular activities

- Also, you may be asked to go to relevant events related to Arabic and the Middle East that take place on campus and answer homework questions on them.
- Announcements for these will be made in due time both by e-mail and/or in class.

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Homework assignments (20%)

- Homework assignments are an integral part of this class and are crucial to help you fully understand the material and improve your proficiency in the different language skills as well as in learning the new vocabulary and grammar.
- Assignments mostly include exercises assigned from the textbook, but there will be other kinds of assigned activities as well.

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Homework assignments (20%)

- There will be “almost” daily written assignments due at the beginning of class on the day designated on the syllabus. You are required to turn in these assignments on time.
- A late assignment will be subject to a 10% delay penalty if turned in on the next day it is due, though crucially before I discuss the solutions in class.
- Assignments turned in later than that will **not** be accepted.
- Needless to say, you cannot turn in any assignment after I have already discussed the solutions in class.

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Homework assignments (20%)

- You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together, with the stipulation that everyone must submit her/his own individual answers.
- Please hand in your homework on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure to **skip** lines and leave some blank margins for me to write comments on your answers.
- Also, please turn in “neat” work. Sloppy work is easily detected and annoys your grader.
- For each assignment please include the number of the assignment as well as the number of the exercise (if it is from the textbook).

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Periodic exams (15%)

- There will be **FIVE** periodic exams. These exams are meant to test your proficiency in the four language skills, as well as your understanding of the materials that we cover in every unit, particularly vocabulary and grammar.
- Dates for exams are provided on the syllabus table. I will also give reminders in class.

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Oral presentation (5%)

- Each student is required to do an oral presentation during the last week of classes (**May 7-9**) on a topic of your choice to be approved by the instructor.
- Presentations are expected to be done individually. I am open, however, to collaborative presentations if you can convince me that it is an interesting idea for you to present with someone else. No presentation, however, can involve more than two students.
- You are required to let me know what the topic of your presentation will be. **Topics for the oral presentation are due Monday April 15th**. I will send reminders as the deadline approaches.

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Written Essay (5%)

- Each student is required to submit a one-page written essay on a topic of your choice to be approved by the instructor. The essay is due **Wednesday May 1st**.
- Please notice that the topic of your oral presentation cannot be the same as that of your written essay.
- Again, you need to consult with me regarding what you want to write about. **Topics for the written essay are due Monday April 1st**. I will send reminders as the deadline approaches.

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Exams (30%)

- There will be two exams: a midterm exam (worth 10%) and a final exam (worth 20%).
- The format of each exam will be announced in class in due time.
- The midterm is currently scheduled for Thursday March 21st. The final exam, which will be comprehensive, is currently scheduled for Thursday May 16th at 9-12.

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Honor Code

- Remember that the honor code is in effect in this class. Submitting work that is not your own, or that you did not participate in doing, is a violation of that code. If you have any questions about the code, please ask me, or check the following link on the college's website:
<http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/administration/newfaculty/handbook/honorcode>

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Grading

- I will use the following system in assigning your 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 75%+ to 80% is C+
from 70%+ to 75% is C
from 65%+ to 70% is C-
from 50%+ to 65% is D
50% and under is F.

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