

صف اللغة العربية للمبتدئين  
ARBC0103A/Spring 2014  
جامعة ميدلبيري  
فصل الربيع الدراسي لعام 2014  
المحاضرة الأولى (10 فبراير 2014)

## Logistics

Class meetings  
MWF 10:10-11:00am, in RCD B11.  
TR: 11:00am-12:15pm, also in RCD B11.

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## Instructor

- Instructor: Usama Soltan
- Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:15am to 12:45pm, and by appointment.
- Instructor's office: Farrell House, Room 206.
- Office phone extension: x5869
- E-mail address: [usoltan@middlebury.edu](mailto:usoltan@middlebury.edu)

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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. Second edition.
- Arabic-English dictionary by Hans Wehr.
- Supplementary materials prepared by the instructor.
- Course website on WordPress: <http://sites.middlebury.edu/arabic103spring2014/>

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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

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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%
Final Presentation	5%
200-word Written Essay	5%
Midterm and Final Exams	10% + 20%

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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. Speaking in English during pair or group work will lower your attendance and participation percentage.

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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 out the syllabus online, studying the indicated vocabulary and grammar sections, 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 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 250-word report in English on each.
- The first report is due no later than the **fifth** week of classes, the second report no later than the **tenth** week of classes. You can either hand them to me in class or leave them in my mailbox.
- 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 to be turned in in class on the day designated on the syllabus.
- 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, in which case a Commons Dean’s note is required.

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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. Do NOT photocopy the exercise pages from the textbook and write your answers on them. These will not be accepted.
- Make sure to **SKIP** lines and leave some room for me to write comments on your answers.

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## Homework Assignments (20%)

- 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). If you are turning in multiple pages, please make sure they are **stapled** together.

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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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## Presentation (5%)

- Each student is required to give a presentation during the last week of classes (**May 5-9**) 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 presentation are due Monday April 14<sup>th</sup>**. I will send reminders as the deadline approaches.

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## Written Essay (5%)

- Each student is required to submit a 200-word written essay in Arabic on a topic of your choice, to be approved by the instructor. The essay is due **Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- Please notice that the topic of your 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 7<sup>th</sup>**. 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 will be held on Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>. The final exam, which will be comprehensive, will be held on Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9-12 in RDC B11.

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## Class rules

- Cell phones have to be turned off before you come in to the class.
- You cannot use your laptop/iPad/etc., during the class.
- Please make sure that you've had a good breakfast **before** coming to class. Eating is not allowed during class time. Beverages are fine, though.

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## Class rules

- Coming to class late is disruptive, so please do show up to class on time.
- Pair work and group work is **NOT** optional. You have to engage in it. This is the key to using language in conversation and to the practice of grammar or vocabulary. Disinterestedness in class activities will lower your participation percentage significantly.

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## Students with Special Needs

- Students requesting accommodation must first complete the certification process with the Student Accessibility Services Office (formerly the Americans with Disabilities Act Office). The ADA committee will provide certification to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.
- Full information is available here:  
<http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/doc/ada>

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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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صف سعيد

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