

**University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**

**Welcome to ARA 101-1F: Introductory Arabic I
Fall 2009 M/W/F 1:00 p.m.-1:50 p.m. HB 434**



**Prof. Lamia Ben Youssef Zayzafoon
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**Office Hours, fall 2009
MF 12:00 pm-12:50 pm
M 2:00 pm-2:30 pm
F 2:00 pm-3pm
And by appointment.**

**Arabic Conversation Table
Friday: 3:00pm-5:40pm HUB**

Course Description:

This is an introductory course to Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It offers students combined training in listening, speaking, reading, and writing the Arabic script. There will be a focus on simple interactive communicative tasks involving teacher-student, student-student, and group interactions. Reading and cultural skills are developed through simple short texts and situational dialogues. The course is divided into three sections. In the first, you will learn how to write and read the Arabic script. In the second, you will be encouraged to communicate

and use Arabic in everyday situations. The final part will be devoted to technology instruction.

Class format will include discussion, small group work, peer response, internet, music video clips, and short films. You will also have in-class written assignments involving supplying answers to certain drills and questions on reading comprehension passages, filling out forms, and writing short messages and sentences.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students should be able to perform the following tasks:

- To write their names and make greetings in Arabic.
- To use the present tense of simple verbs as well as use articles, prepositions, possessive and demonstrative adjectives, interrogative expressions, numbers, expressions for time and weather.
- To describe simple actions in the present.
- To write simple sentences based on chapter topics and vocabulary
- To formulate simple questions and answers
- To recognize gender and plural inflections in Arabic
- To speak about themselves in short sentences in Arabic
- To tell one’s academic standing, profession, and hobbies in Arabic
- To tell time and count to a hundred.
- To read newspaper headlines
- To discuss in English the ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity of Arabic culture

Required Textbooks:

1. *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*, by Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, Abbas Al-Tonsi. (Georgetown University Press: BK & DVD edition, 2004).

2. *The Arabic Alphabet: How to Read & Write it*, by Nicholas Awde. (Publisher: Lyle Stuart, 1987).

Course Requirements:

Attendance/participation	10%
5 quizzes	10%
Homework	10%
5 Reports	10%
LinguaFolio	15%
Written midterm	10%
Arabic Calligraphy	5%
Arabic conversation	5%
Oral Final	10%
Written final	15%
Total	100

1. Attending and participating in class activities. Most of the language skills to be developed cannot be acquired without effective participation and interaction with other students and with the instructor.

2. Taking classroom tests and the written final. A missed test cannot be made up. However, another task may be assigned instead if there is an excuse.

3. Doing homework assignments. This out-of-class practice is essential for reinforcement of classroom learning of Arabic script. Once a given unit is covered, exercises and drills in this unit (DVD and class handouts) are due at the beginning of the next class session.

4. Students are required to write **5 reports** consisting of: **2 Arabic film reviews** (1-2 pages); **2 cultural reports** in the Birmingham area (one of them must be an Arabic cultural event of a secular nature); and **1 interview with a member of the Arab or Arab/American community** on/off campus (2-3 pages) See either St. George/St. Elias Church or the Egyptian Student Association at: <http://students.uab.edu/student-life/show.asp?durki=32558>

N. B. You only have 5 days after the event to turn in your cultural events report. NO REPORTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT.

Only **secular** Arabic cultural events will be considered for extra-bonus activities.

For the cultural interview, each student must write **15** questions in Arabic and schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss them. Only then, can the student proceed with the actual interview. **NO INTERVIEW WILL BE ACCEPTED IF THE INSTRUCTOR DOES NOT SEE YOUR QUESTIONS BEFOREHAND.** In ARA 101, the cultural interview focuses on one person only. It aims at gathering information about his national origin, current job/status in the USA, education, family information, and hobbies.

5. **The Arabic conversation table** will be offered **2 hours a week**. You are required to attend **5 sessions** to receive the full grade. **It is your responsibility to contact Ms. Lamia Ibrahim** (President of the Arabic Conversation Table). Please check FLMS Website for Arabic Table hours.

6. Taking oral and written exams. They will be related to what is covered in class. Pronunciation, fluency, width of vocabulary, and appropriate, functional usage will be taken into account. The Final Oral Exam is a cumulative oral exam where you will show your ability to communicate using the grammar and vocabulary covered in the semester.

7. Attendance policy: The University of Alabama at Birmingham recognizes that the academic success of individual students is related to their class attendance and participation. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures complies with the official UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs and therefore allows, with anticipated proper official documentation, absences due to jury or military duty as well as absences due to participation in specific university-sponsored activities. In addition, the Department has its own Attendance Policy.

Regular attendance is necessary to learn a foreign language. Repeated absences, tardiness, passivity, and silence will definitely be reflected in your course grade. For semester-length classes*, the Attendance Policy of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is:

Class participation, contribution and actual speaking in the target language is crucial in order to learn a language, therefore class attendance is mandatory. Any absence is going to affect students' class participation and final grade. If under

special circumstances, students need to miss classes, the following attendance policy will be applied:

3-days a week classes: 2 % from the FINAL grade is deducted for EACH absence above 4. More than 9 absences will result in an AUTOMATIC “F”.

Example for 3-day classes:

Final grade = 93

6 absences (2 above maximum permitted) = $93 - 4 = 89\%$ final grade

10 absences = F

Example for 2-day classes:

Final grade = 90

6 absences (3 above maximum permitted) = $90 - 6 = 84\%$ final grade

8 absences = F

Example for 1-day classes:

Final grade = 95

2 absences (1 above maximum permitted) = $95 - 2 = 93\%$ final grade

4 absences = F

UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs:

http://www.app.uab.edu/policy_change.asp#Attendance%20and%20Excused%20Absence%20Policy

Tardiness: is defined as entering the classroom after roll is taken. Each instance of tardiness will be counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ absence. Similarly, leaving class before it has ended will be counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ absence. Students arriving after the roll has been called are responsible for notifying the instructor so they can be marked tardy rather than absent.

Incompletes: for exceptional circumstances like death in the family or illness are granted only to those students who have already turned in and passed 70% of the class requirements. No incompletes shall be granted without proper documentation attesting to the students' claims of illness or family hardship.

UAB Honor Code: UAB expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Unacceptable behaviors such as abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and misrepresentation are serious violations of the UAB Academic Honor Code and are punishable by a range of penalties. For more information, please visit the UAB website:
http://www.catalog.uab.edu/UAB-Catalog2004-2006/progress_toward_degree.pdf

UAB Disability Services: UAB is committed to making its academic programs and services accessible to students with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities are protected from discrimination based on their disability, as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information, please visit the UAB web site at <http://students.uab.edu/services/>

IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction system:

http://www.uab.edu/it/instructional/technology/resources/IDEA/IDEA_Survey.htm

All class instructions, assignments, class schedule changes, and administrative info will come to your **UAB Blazer Account**. If you do not have one, please open an account immediately.

Early Alert System:

This semester again, all faculty members teaching 090-, 100-, and 200-levels will be participating in the Early Alert System which allows us to alert students experiencing difficulty in their classes and direct them to resources that will be helpful. This semester, the system will be active from August 27 until October 8. You will be able to easily access the link to EAS through BlazerNET (faculty tab).

N.B. By accepting this syllabus, students automatically give me permission to use data collected from their oral and written class performance in my publications. If you do not want me to use your work, please notify me of your objection via mail before September 20, 2009.

Internet Resources:

<http://afl.ajeeb.com/freetour/menu/menu.html>

<http://www.arabacademy.com/download/alphabetwed7introchange5.swf>

<http://www.islam.org.hk/ArabicLessons/lesson01.utf8.asp>

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/arabic.htm>

<http://www.sakkal.com/ArtArabicCalligraphy.html>

http://www.islamic-knowledge.com/Learning_Arabic/Basic_Arabic/Fathah_Tanwin.htm

http://www.islamic-knowledge.com/Learning_Arabic/Basic_Arabic/Shaddah.htm

http://www.islamic-knowledge.com/Learning_Arabic/Basic_Arabic/Sukuun_2.htm

http://www.islamic-knowledge.com/Learning_Arabic/Basic_Arabic/Vocab_Rel.htm

<http://i-cias.com/babel/arabic/02.htm>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

August 19(Wednesday)	<i>Greetings & Introductions</i>
August 21	<i>In Class:</i> Unit Read, listen and write Unit 1 Lab Orientation: General /Other tools used: Rosetta Stone and Arabic Keyboard
August 24 (Monday)	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 1
August 26	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 1 <i>Homework:</i> Complete all drills
August 28	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 2
August 31 (Monday)	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 2
September 2	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 2 <i>Homework:</i> Read Nicholas Awde's <i>The Arabic Alphabet</i> 13-20 <i>Homework:</i> Complete all drills

	Quiz 1
September 4	Unit 3
September 7 (Monday)	No Class Labor Day
September 9	Arabic countries and capitals <i>In Class:</i> Unit 3
September 11	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 3 <i>Homework:</i> Complete all drills
September 14 (Monday)	Family <i>In Class:</i> Unit 4
September 16	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 4
September 18	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 4 <i>Homework:</i> Complete all drills Quiz 2
September 21 (Monday)	Education and professions <i>In Class:</i> Continue Unit 5
September 23	<i>In Class</i> Unit 5
September 2	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 5 <i>Homework:</i> Complete all drills Quiz 3
September 28 (Monday)	Hobbies <i>In Class:</i> Unit 6
September 30	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 6
October 2	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 6 <i>Homework:</i> Complete all drills
October 5 (Monday)	Numbers
October 7	Numbers
October 9	Review for Midterm
October 12 (Monday)	MIDTERM
October 14	Food and social etiquettes <i>In Class:</i> Unit 7: FINISH THE ALPHABET <i>Homework:</i> <i>The Arabic Alphabet</i> 39-73
October 16	No Class: Student Break
October 19 (Monday)	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 7
October 21	Middle Eastern Food/Restaurant (Pita Stop)
October 23	Days, Seasons, and Weather <i>In Class:</i> Unit 8
October 26 (Monday)	Days, Seasons, and Weather <i>In Class:</i> Unit 8
October 28	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 8 <i>Homework:</i> complete all drills
October 30	<i>In Class:</i> Finish Unit 8
November 2 (Monday)	Transportations <i>In Class:</i> Unit 9 In the Airport
November 4	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 9
November 6	<i>In Class:</i> Unit 9

	Homework: Drill 4-5
November 9 (Monday)	In Class: Unit 9
November 11	Classical Arabic Music
November 13	Time
November 16 (Monday)	Arabic Pop Culture
November 18	Arabic News Headlines
November 20	An Introduction to Arabic Poetry: Mahmoud Darwish
November 23 (Monday)	In Class: Unit 10
November 25-27	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday
November 30 (Monday)	In Class: Unit 10 Calligraphy and all reports are due.
December 2	Review Final Oral Exam during my office hours LinguaFolio is due
December 4	Final Day of Class: Review Final Oral Exam during my office hours
Finals Week	December 7-11
December 11	Friday 10:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Additional Information:

FLMS (Foreign Language Media Services) is a computer lab for Foreign Languages students but also opened to all UAB students. It is located on the 4th floor of the Humanities Building (HB 402). All documentaries shown in class are available on the FLMS video server, accessible from the FLMS computer lab. Please go to FLMS and click on the “Video Assets” icon on your workstation. Then click on FLL 120, and the appropriate video you want to watch.

For more information about **foreign language courses and study-abroad opportunities**, please visit our UAB Department of Foreign Languages homepage: <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/>

International Scholars and Students Services offer a variety of international programs that you may be interested in and which may count for you to complete your International Events assignment. Please check their website and click on ISSS Calendars and Activities: www.uab.edu/iss

For more information about **free screenings of foreign films at UAB**, please visit the UAB Foreign Film Series webpage: <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/Foreign-Film-Series-2008-9.html>

Foreign Languages at UAB:

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