Course Syllabus

Course Prefix / Number: ARA 2200C  
Course Title: Intermediate Arabic I  
Credit Hours: 4 semester hours

Instructor Name and Contact Information:

- Cynthia Brandenburg, MA Arabic Language and Literature (The American University in Cairo), BA Honours Arabic (SOAS, London, UK)  
- Email: cbrandenburg@uwf.edu  
- Cell Phone: 847-306-0841

Prerequisites:

ARA 1121C Beginning Arabic Language and Culture II. Students should also have an open mind, a commitment to full participation, and the desire to have fun while learning.

Course Description:

Intermediate Arabic Language and Culture I is a continuation of the Beginning Arabic Language and Culture II course. In this course, students continue to use Al-Kitaab, Part One.

During this course, students will develop grammar and vocabulary appropriate for students at an intermediate stage. Students will also develop the written and verbal communication skills at an intermediate level. Students will continue to hear and practice dialogues using Egyptian colloquial Arabic (and other colloquial variations) in addition to learning the higher register of educated Arabic speakers. Students will thus gain further experience in distinguishing between registers and colloquial variations.

The accompanying DVDs will continue to tell the story of Maha and Khalid. Each story helps to reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and grammatical features. The culture component will also be found in each chapter and in video clips on the DVDs. This will facilitate student engagement in appropriate social interactions when communicating with Arabic speakers.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- answer questions and deliver presentations on a variety of intermediate level Arabic texts;
- speak in Arabic on familiar topics at an intermediate level;
- talk in Arabic about themselves and their interests with Arabic-speakers at an intermediate level;
• use culturally appropriate expressions, proverbs, and greetings at an intermediate level;
• converse in Arabic about intermediate level audio/video texts on familiar topics;
• write short essays expressing emotions and ideas at an intermediate level;
• display competence using intermediate level Arabic grammar in diverse contexts; and
• demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Arabic cultures and socially appropriate
  behavior in interactions with Arabic speakers.

How to Excel in This Class:

1. **Actively participate!** You can prepare in advance by thinking about the questions that
   may be asked during office hours and the activities that may be performed so that you can
   practice beforehand. Prepare a list of questions regarding difficulties you may have to
   post on message boards or bring up during office hours.

2. **Repeat, Repeat, Repeat!** A once-over review of vocabulary and grammar will not be
   sufficient for success. Practice new words, phrases, and dialogues throughout your day.
   Remember to LOOK, LISTEN, SAY, and WRITE!

3. **Say It Out Loud!** Don't just think Arabic ... say it out loud.

4. **Depend on Learning Partners!** Post issues in discussion areas and support each other
   during office hours. Others will have encountered many of the same issues and will be
   happy to share their knowledge. Learning Arabic is about building a social group of
   speakers. Talk to each other and depend on each other.

5. **Own The Vocabulary!** Make new words meaningful to you. Think about how you may
   use them to express something about you/others in your daily life. Create sentences to
   practice saying and writing.

   Make flash cards with useful vocabulary, verb forms, expressions, synonyms, antonyms,
   and even sentences that you want to use successfully. Carry them with you and do 1-5 minute
   study sessions throughout the day.

6. **Guess!** All language acquisition involves guesswork. Practice filling in gaps based on
   your best judgment.

7. **Make mistakes!** It's absolutely OK to make mistakes in learning a language. Learn from
   your own and others' mistakes. Remember the only true mistake is to be afraid to make
   one!

8. **Get exposure/develop an "ear" for the language!** Join online networking groups, listen
   to Arabic radio stations, watch Arabic films, and welcome any opportunity to speak with
   fellow students and native speakers.

9. **Take good notes and organize!** Writing good notes helps in reinforcing learning and
   capturing information for study/recall. Make a separate binder so that you can organize
according to such headings as: Alphabet/Diacritical Marks; Vocabulary; Synonyms; Antonyms; Grammar; Writing Practice; and Essays.

10. **Invest in Yourself!** Language helps develop creativity and facilitates learning in other areas of your life. Invest **two to three hours of self-study** for every hour of class. This means that you should plan on spending a minimum of **12 hours/week** dedicated to learning Arabic. Master each new building block of knowledge so that new material will make sense.

**Textbooks:**

**Required texts:**


**Optional texts:**

The Hans-Wehr dictionary is the standard dictionary for use by students learning Arabic who are non-native speakers.

Alhawary’s **grammar book is highly recommended** as it provides a great resource to those seeking clarification of the grammar presented in the textbook. It is particularly helpful in the online environment where students must locate sources and information that would be asked in a traditional classroom environment. Many useful examples and explanations help the student get a firm grasp of aspects needed to succeed.


**Internet Access and Email Requirements:**

- Periodic Internet Access - it is recommended that you access the online version of the course through [eLearning](https://elearning.uwf.edu/) at least once a week to accomplish certain tasks such as the following:
  - Interacting with the instructor and other students
  - Posting to discussion threads
  - Performing oral assessments
  - Taking online tests
  - Getting individualized attention
Grading / Evaluation:

Your grade in this course will consist of the following elements:

Quizzes

You will have one attempt for every quiz unless otherwise instructed. Check the News section for additional attempt opportunities. Quizzes are open-book and so one attempt should be sufficient. Times will vary for completion of quizzes so you should check each quiz for the time allowance.

- 7 Language quizzes @ 20 points each for a total of 140 points.

Participation:

Office Hours (synchronous – in illuminate sessions) and Asynchronous Activities:

You will have the opportunity to seek help from your instructor in at least seven (7) office hours with one (1) office hour for each lesson module. You are also welcome to write to your instructor and/or phone for additional help. You get credit for participating by reviewing the presentation related to the module and then writing a brief report about what you learned in the presentation and placing it in the Office Hour dropbox.

- 7 Office hours @ 20 points each for a total of 140 points. These may be in the form of synchronous office hours or asynchronous activities as directed by the instructor.

Discussions

- 7 Culture Discussions @ 20 points each for a total of 140 points.

Homework Assignments

- 7 Assignments @ 20 points each for a total of 140 points.

Final Paper

- 1 Final Paper @ 40 points – Arabic language or Arabic culture paper (student’s choice)

Total Course Points

The total number of points available in the course is 600 points.
Grading Scales:

Letter grades will be awarded based upon the following scale:

- **A**: 543-600 points
- **B**: 482-542 points
- **C**: 422-481 points
- **D**: 362-421 points
- **F**: 361 and below

Special Technology Utilized by Students:

Students in the Military

This course is a combination of self-contained delivery through the fully loaded ultra-portable "Acer Aspire One" (military only) and online activities. Instructional interaction takes place through the Internet. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving email with attachments, students will be expected to upload and download audio and text files.

Civilian Students

Civilian students will access the course through elearning via the Internet and do not need to concern themselves with the special technology provided to students in the military. Students will need the same skills described for military students including the use of email, word processing skills, and the ability to upload and download audio and text files.

For questions or technical issues please contact John Carey at arabic@uwf.edu, or Phone: 1-888-529-1823 or 1-850-473-7209.

Expectations for Academic Conduct/Plagiarism Policy:

- Academic Conduct Policy: [PDF Format]
- Plagiarism Policy: [PDF Format]
- Student Handbook: [PDF Format]

Withdrawal Policy

- **Withdrawal deadline from all courses for term with partial refund**: automatic grade of "WR" June 8, 2012.
- **Withdrawal deadline from individual course or all courses for term**: automatic grade of "W" (no individual course withdrawals after this date) July 13, 2012.
- **Withdrawal deadline from all courses for term**: "W" or "WF" at instructor's discretion, August 10, 2012. Please discuss any academic concerns with me prior to withdrawing. Withdrawals after the deadline will not be approved except for:
1. A death in the immediate family.
2. Serious illness of the student or an immediate family member.
3. A situation deemed similar to categories 1 and 2 by all in the approval process.
4. Withdrawal due to Military Service (Florida Statute 1004.07)
5. National Guard Troops Ordered into Active Service (Florida Statute 250.482)

Students who do not officially withdraw will be assigned a standard letter grade. Late withdraws must be approved by the students advisor, instructor of the course, department chairperson, and finally, the University Academic Appeals Committee. Students who withdraw are not enrolled as of the date the withdrawal is processed.

ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at the University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, please notify the instructor or the SDRC as soon as possible. You may contact the SDRC office by e-mail at sdrc@uwf.edu or by phone at (850) 474-2387. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual.