Course Syllabus

Course Prefix / Number: ARA 1120C
Course Title: Beginning Arabic Language and Culture I
Credit Hours: 4 semester hours (includes lab)

Instructor Name and Contact Information:
- Dr. Arifa Garman
- Email: agarman@uwf.edu

Course Description:

Beginning Arabic Language and Culture I is designed as an introduction to the language and cultures of the Arab world. The course is designed for students with no experience in the language. However, a word of caution is in order. Becoming familiar with Arabic culture will be an interesting and enjoyable experience, but your quest towards minimal fluency in Arabic will be much more challenging. For students whose primary language is English, Arabic is one of the most difficult of modern languages. Nevertheless, you will discover that it will also be quite rewarding as you make progress in learning the basics of Arabic. Perseverance and patience are key elements in language learning. You will achieve your goals if you simply keep moving forward at a regular pace.

“detadimitni eb ton od esaelP”

See what we mean? The above statement really is English. In Beginning Arabic Language and Culture I, you will learn to read and write the Arabic alphabet, to speak simple words and phrases, and to enter into simple conversations. This will be accomplished through listening, speaking, reading, and writing exercises. You will learn about significant aspects of the cultures of the different countries and regions that comprise the Arab world. In Arabic Language and Culture II and III, the emphasis will be on strengthening and expanding language skills while continuing to learn about the culture as it is viewed from different perspectives.

Enjoy the journey!

By the way, the above statement is: “Please do not be intimidated.” Did you get that? One of the many challenges is that Arabic is written from right-to-left!

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):
The Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) in this course will be accomplished through a variety of means. Cultural knowledge and sensitivity will be encouraged through a thorough reading of *Understanding Arabs*, a well-known text in the field that offers an overview of important aspects of the Arab world, and through discussion with the instructor and with peers of significant aspects of Arab cultures. The introduction to Modern Standard Arabic will include listening, speaking, reading, and writing exercises designed to introduce the alphabet, simple vocabulary, common expressions, greetings, and basic questions and answers.

The course will incorporate the Five C’s (Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities) set forth in *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century*, 2006. This document, requested by the Dept. of Education and prepared by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages is endorsed by the National Capital Language Resource Center and the American Association of Teachers of Arabic.

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

- Describe unique characteristics of Arab Culture, which are inextricably linked to both geography and faith (Islam). They will be able to:
  - Describe Arab beliefs and values.
  - Describe Arab concepts of friendship and acceptance of strangers.
  - Describe Arab concepts of emotion and logic.
  - Describe Arab concepts of sensitive personal relationships.
  - Describe Arab concepts of the role of men and women.
  - Describe Arab social formalities and etiquette.
  - Describe Arab social structure.
  - Describe Arab concepts of the role of the family.
  - Describe Arab concepts of religion and society.
  - Describe issues involved when communicating with Arabs.
  - Describe Islamic Fundamentalism.
  - Describe reasons and perceptions that have led to Anti-Americanism in the Arab world.
  - Describe issues for Arabs living in Western cultures.
  - Describe the similarities and differences encountered when dealing with Arabs from various parts of the world.

- Demonstrate limited use of the Arabic language including:
  - Reading and writing the alphabet.
  - Producing Arabic sounds, letters, words, and simple phrases.
  - Demonstrating a limited ability to understand, speak, read and write words, phrases, and simple sentences in Arabic.
  - Recognize the Arabic period, comma, question mark, and other essential punctuation.
  - Express common verbal and non-verbal greetings.
  - Ask simple questions within the limits of vocabulary and grammar structures of the course.
Demonstrate the ability to understand the meaning of words and simple statements.

Textbooks:

- **Required texts:**

- **Optional: (dictionary)**

**Required:**

- 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
  - Interacting with the instructor and other students,
  - Posting to discussion threads,
  - Performing oral assessments,
  - Taking online tests, and
  - Getting individualized attention.
- UWF E-mail Account

**Grading / Evaluation:**

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

**Quizzes:**

- 10 Language quizzes @ 15 points each: a total of 150 points.
- 12 Culture quizzes @ 15 points each: a total of 180 points

**Participation:**

Office hours 12 opportunities

- 8 mandatory @ 15 pts ea: for a total of 120 points
  - up to 60 bonus points for participation in all 12
Discussions

- 14 discussions @ 15 pts ea: for a total of 210 points

Homework assignments:

- 20 assignments @ 20 pts ea: for a total of 400 points

The total number of points available in the course is **1060**.

Grading Scales:

**Letter grades will be awarded based upon the following scale:**

- **A:** 954-1060 points,
- **B:** 848-953 points,
- **C:** 742-847 points,
- **D:** 636-741 points,
- **F:** 635 and below

Program Goals:

Each lesson contains:

1. **Cultural Notes** - are presented in the beginning of each unit to introduce students to geographic ethnic and socio-cultural aspects of selected areas of the Arab world.
2. **Dialogues/monologues** - are instrumental in promoting communicative competence.
   a. The *Alif Baa* dialogues/monologues introduce the vocabulary and the grammatical structures that will be practiced throughout the remainder of the lesson in the context of everyday situations.
   b. A video, which provides oral presentations of the dialogues/monologues in each unit in *Alif Baa*, will be used to support the lessons.
3. **Vocabulary** - list in each lesson is organized by grammatical functions to assist students in associating the various items with their role in communication.
4. **Pronunciation** – narrations are used throughout the course in the *Alif Baa* dialogues and monologues, to assist students in associating various items with their role in communication.
5. **Alif Baa DVDs** - integrate Arab culture, Arabic language and alphabet in each lesson in various formats.

Special Technology Utilized by Students:

This course is a combination of self-contained delivery through the fully loaded ultra-portable Fujitsu Lifebook (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 files.

Expectations for Academic Conduct/Plagiarism Policy:

- Academic Conduct Policy: [PDF Format]
- Plagiarism Policy: [PDF Format]
- Student Handbook: [PDF Format]
- Withdrawal Policy
  
  “The withdraw deadline for this course is July 9, 2009. Please discuss any academic concerns with me prior to withdrawing. Withdraws 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:

- Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), sdrc@uwf.edu, 850.474.2387. SDRC will send an email to the instructor that specifies any recommended accommodations.
- Please check [http://www.uwf.edu/sdrc/index.cfm](http://www.uwf.edu/sdrc/index.cfm).