

Arabic 2250 – Intermediate Arabic
Course Outline – Fall/Winter, 2009/2010



Introduction

Apart from being the native language of over 200 million speakers dispersed across Northern Africa and throughout the Middle East, Arabic is also widely used by a billion Muslims throughout the world. It belongs to the Semitic family of languages which also includes Amharic, Hebrew and Aramaic. Many linguists make a distinction between Classical Arabic, the name of the literary language of the old era, and contemporary Arabic commonly known as Modern Standard Arabic or MSA.

MSA is the form of Arabic universally taught in schools of the Arab world; it is the language of all contemporary Arabic written publications as well as the language of the Arabic broadcast media. In addition, Modern Standard Arabic is the lingua franca used and respected by educated Arabic learners throughout the entire world and it is one of the official six languages of the United Nations.

Modern Standard Arabic is ideally suited for students of the Social Sciences, students of the Humanities, and students of Applied Sciences and Business who may consider work or research in an Arabic speaking country.

Arabic 2250 aims to achieve the following:

- Build upon students' proficiency and communication in Modern Standard Arabic in the four basic skills developed in earlier courses
- Introduce students to a wide variety of styles and genres from the various periods through authentic texts
- Involve students in intensive reading of expository writings on a variety of cultural topics, enabling them to approach prose, fiction, and non-fiction written in Arabic
- Cover topics and situations relating to contemporary Arabic media, literature and culture
- Focus on the acquisition of more complex grammatical structures, on expanding vocabulary and discourse skills, and on developing competence in a wide range of communicative situations.
- Help students widen a broad understanding of in-depth Arab culture.

Learning Outcomes

It is expected that, upon completion of this course, the students will have the ability to accomplish the following:

1. Describe a variety of topics related to their own personal environment such as work, family, study, entertainment, daily routine, and school surroundings.
2. Be able to interact orally, asking and answering questions on a variety of topics.
3. Describe activities in all time frames such as past trips, significant events, detailed description of an experience they are involved in, and future plan.
4. Be able to compare and contrast entities such as schools, cities, institutions, and living environments.
5. Describe the character and achievements of current and historical figures.
6. Narrate in the past, describing one's experience or that of others.
7. Demonstrate good control of Arabic grammar and become aware of major features of the varied cultures of the Arab World in the context of its history and geography.

These tasks, or language functions, are congruent with the Guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Instructor:

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Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 1:30-2:30
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:30
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Class Schedule:

- Monday: 2:30 - 4:30 pm – UC 207
- Wednesday: 2:30 - 4:30 pm – UC 207

Prerequisites: Arabic 1030 or Grade 12U Arabic or the former OAC Arabic, Arabic 002, International and Comparative Studies 008, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisites: Former Arabic 250

Textbook Requirements: Alesh, M., Ahlan wa Sahlan, Functional Modern Standard Arabic for Intermediate learners. Yale University Press, 2006.
Supplementary materials and exercises provided by the instructor

Notes: Students must bring the textbook and the workbook to every class, and carry, binder, and pen or pencil with them.
Students need to make sure their UWO e-mail account is operational. We use e-mail all the time!

Student Evaluation:

The following is the distribution of marks:

Tests	30%
Assignments	10%
Dictation	05%
Research papers & presentations	10%
Participation & attendance	10%
Final exam	35%

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is mandatory. There will be sign-up sheets for each class to record attendance. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions; students' participation is taken into consideration. The major aim of student's participation is to answer questions posed by the instructor and to express your views on the points explained in class. Student is responsible for any material she or he missed, and handing in assignment on time. Please turn off cellular phones, ipod, and other electronic gadgets before coming to class.

Tests, Assignments, and Dictation:

There will be five tests, five dictations, and five assignments during the course. Students must read the course outline to know the date of every one. There will be NO second chance if you miss any one of them. However, if there is a compelling reason why you are unable to finish the assignment, write the dictation, or take the test, please speak to the instructor in advance.

Research papers:

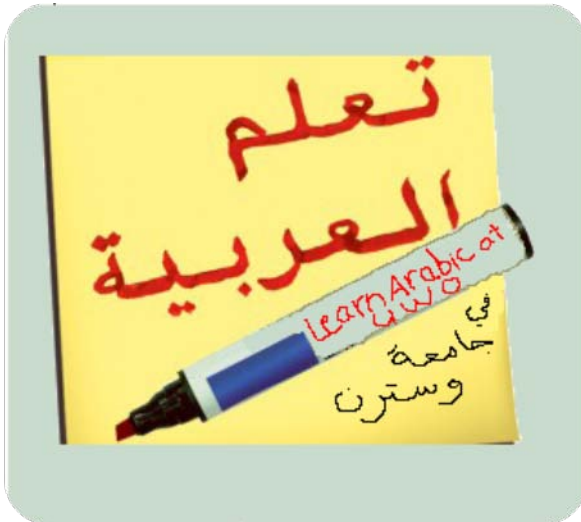
There will be two research papers, one in each term. The aim of the research papers is twofold: Building knowledge of the Arab world and its culture, and at the same time enhancing your appreciation of Arabic literature and strengthening your language skills. Students are given the option of writing their research paper individually or in groups. The maximum number of students for a group is 2. You may use the internet to search for sites relating to culture, education, literature, and other Arabic resources that may improve your learning of Arabic and recognize its heritage. Many search engines, such as Google, accept Arabic search keywords. There will be presentations starting in October.

Research paper topics:

Paper 1: Make a geographical survey of the countries of the Arab world. Select one country and elaborate on its history, borders, population, culture, traditions, etc.

Paper 2: Choose one of the Arab figures in the field of literature. Write a biography of the person you have chosen. Select a passage from the various genres s/he excels at and write a critique about it.

More details about each research paper will be announced and discussed in class.



Lecture Topics *(tentative)*

Month	day	TOPIC	NOTES
September	14	Introduction to the Course	
	16	Review of Basic Arabic Grammar covered in Arabic 1030	
	21	Review of Basic Arabic Grammar covered in Arabic 1030 (Cont.)	
	23	Lesson I (Billboards, advertisements, and announcements)	
	28	Lesson I (Cont.)	
	30	Lesson II (Introducing yourself, specialization, hobbies, and entertainments)	
October	05	Lesson II (Cont.)	Presentation begins
	07	Lesson III (Television programme about Damascene dishes)	Dictation #1
	12	THANKSGIVING	
	14	Lesson III (Cont.)	Assignment #1 due
	19	Lessons' Review	Test #1
	21	Lesson IV (Maysa' New Address)	
	26	Lesson IV (Cont.)	
	28	Lesson V (A program "With People")	
November	02	Lesson V (Cont.)	
	04	Lesson VI (Rami Marteni in Amman)	
	09	Lesson VI (Cont.)	
	11	Lessons' Review	
	16	Lesson VII (News Items from Arabic Newspapers)	
	18	Lesson VII (Cont.)	

November	23	Lesson VIII (Smile! Jokes from here and there)	Dictation #2
	25	Lesson VIII (Cont.)	TEST #2
	30	Lesson IX (Michael Brown visits Damascus)	Assignment #2 due
December	02	Lesson IX (Cont.)	
	07	Lessons' Review	
	09	Last day of students' paper discussion	
January	04	Review for all the previous lessons	
	06	Lesson X (Michael Brown visits Palmyra and Aleppo)	
	11	Lesson X (Cont.)	Dictation #3
	13	Lesson XI (Unfortunate Invitation)	TEST #3
	18	Lesson XI (Cont.)	Assignment #3 due
	20	Lesson XII (Dream and Reality)	
	25	Lesson XII (Cont.)	
	27	Lessons' Review	
February	01	Discussion of Students' paper begins	
	03	Lesson XIII (Two Short Stories)	Dictation #4
	08	Lesson XIII (Cont.)	TEST #4
	10	Lesson XIV (Children's Paradise)	Assignment #4 due
	15	CONFERENCE WEEK	
	17		
	22	Lesson XIV (Cont.)	
	24	Lesson XV (The First Parliamentary and Physician Female)	

March	01	Lesson XV (Cont.)	
	03	Lessons' Review	
	08	Lesson XVI (Andalusia)	
	10	Lesson XVI (Cont.)	
	15	Lesson XVII (Averroës)	TEST #5
	17	Lesson XVII (Cont.)	Dictation #5
	22	Lesson XVIII (Arabic Proverbs)	Assignment #5 due
	24	Lesson XVIII (Cont.)	
	29	Lessons' Review	
	31	Last day of students' paper discussion	
April	05	Review for the final	
	07	Review for the final	

Policies and Procedures:

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's **verbatim** or **paraphrased** text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading