

Western University
Faculty of Arts & Humanities
Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

Arabic 1030/5 – Arabic for Beginners
Course Outline – Fall/Winter, 2017/2018



Citadel of Aleppo, Aleppo, Syria built in the 3rd millennium BC. ~ 12th century AD

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the study of Arabic at Western. Apart from being the native language of over 300 million speakers dispersed across the Middle East and Northern Africa, Arabic is also a theological language widely used by a billion of 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 (MSA) named Fus-ha.

Moreover, the Arabic language includes a number of regional as well as stylistic varieties ranging between MSA and informal Spoken Arabic, often called colloquial or vernacular (Arabic used at home and in daily life). Written Arabic is much the same across the Arab World while the vernaculars vary from one country to another. Fus-ha is the form of Arabic universally taught in the schools of the Arab world; it is the language of all contemporary Arabic-written publications and the Arabic broadcast media.

Arabic is one of the six official 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Arabic 1030 aims to:

- Develop students' proficiency and communication skills in Modern Standard Arabic
- Offer basic grammar that enables students to understand sentence structures and verb patterns of Arabic
- Bring students to a good mastery of the Arabic sounds and writing system
- Make available a significant set of essential vocabulary needed for basic conversation and reading
- Foster the ability to comprehend Arabic in a variety of social context and situation
- Expand insights into the culture and history of the Arabic-speaking countries
- Provide a strong foundation for progression to Intermediate Arabic 2250

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Read and write the Arabic alphabet, individual words and numbers, short sentences, and acquire a range of vocabulary;
- Formulate and respond to simple questions, tell time, know days of week and months, as well as names of the seasons etc;
- Engage in basic conversations involving greetings and introducing one's self and family;
- Express basic ideas and emotions in simple sentences and dialogues, e.g., interacting with people, inquiring about their health, asking them about their interests etc.
- Know general expressions and short phrases that provide important information like gender, age, grade, and nationality;
- Comprehend simple audio/video texts on familiar topics;
- Be acquainted with the customs and traditions of Arabic speaking countries;
- Appreciate the differences between the culture of the Arab World and that of North America.

Instructor:

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Class Schedule (Section 001):

- Monday: 11:30 - 1:30 pm in UCC 59
- Wednesday: 11:30 - 1:30 pm in UCC 59

Prerequisites:

This course is intended for students with little or no previous knowledge of Arabic. Students who have some Arabic background have to take the Arabic Placement Test administered by the department to determine their eligibility for this class.

Anti-requisites:

Former grade 12U

Textbook Requirements:

- Alosch, M., *Ahlan wa Sahlan, Functional Modern Standard Arabic for Beginners, Second Edition 2010*. Yale University Press.
- Alosch, M. and Allen Clark. *Ahlan wa Sahlan Workbook*. Yale University Press, 2010.
- The textbook and the workbook are accompanied by DVD and mp3 CD, the student workbook, Supplementary materials and exercises provided by the instructor.

Notes:

- Students must bring the textbook and the workbook to every class and the required utensils such as a binder, pen or pencil. Please remember that all the exercises available in the workbook and textbook are required homework. Its content will be reflected on the quizzes and tests.
- Pronunciation and speaking: The audio CD contains clear instructions and practice on pronunciation and speaking. You are urged to listen and repeat aloud. Your ability to pronounce correctly and speak will be marked.
- Students need to make sure their UWO e-mail account is operational. We use e-mail to conduct this course's business!



STUDENT EVALUATION:

The following is the distribution of marks:

Tests	30%
Assignments	10%
Dictations	10%
Participation & attendance	10%
Pop Quizzes	05%
Final exam	35%

Attendance, Participation, and Student's Expectations

Attendance is mandatory; there will be sign-up sheets for each class to record attendance. If you come to class later than five minutes after it starts, you will be marked tardy, and three tardies will be counted as one absence.

Punctual attendance, active participation during class activities and discussions and, most importantly, proper and respectful behavior during class are all part of participation mark. In short, it measures your overall perceived commitment to the course.

Because attendance is so important in language courses, **any student who, in the opinion of the course instructor, is absent too frequently from class periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course (see Western University Academic Calendar).**

Please read the following link carefully:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>

Students are responsible for any material they miss. They are equally responsible for handing in assignments on time. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of deduction of 50% per day. Students must read the course outline to know the date of every test and assignment.

Students must put their full potential to succeed in this course. They must do their best to read the lessons and complete the textbook exercises. In addition, they must consistently prepare well and memorize vocabulary in order to be able to develop the skills required for using Arabic efficiently.

Remember, learning a language is attained through exerting diligent effort and working on it daily. Therefore, in order to become proficient in Arabic, obtain maximum benefit from class time and score a good mark in this course, students should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences or tardiness. Being excessively absent or tardy from the class will negatively affect your progress and grades. It is also important to read the assigned lessons ahead of class time in order to familiarize yourself with the specific

content of the lesson and thus be able to follow class discussions and rehearse your acquired vocabulary.

Some students wonder about the presence of heritage Arabic speakers and how this may affect their grade. All students should keep in mind that the language any heritage speaker will be studying is Modern Standard Arabic which is not spoken as a first language by anyone. Therefore, heritage students, although they may find the sounds and vocabulary easier at first, will soon be learning a language as new to them as it is to the rest of the students. In my experience, both heritage and non-heritage students can reach equal levels of proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic.



Traditional Arabic tattoo design (henna)



Traditional Arabic coffee with dates

Tentative Schedule:

Months	Day	Topic	Notes
September 2017	11	Introduction to the Course	
	13	Unit 1 in the workbook	
	18	Unit 1 cont.	
	20	Unit 2 in the workbook	
	25	Unit 2 cont.	
	27	Unit 3 in the workbook	
October	2	Unit 3 cont.	
	4	Unit 4 in the workbook	
	9	Fall Reading Week	
	11		
	16	Unit 4 cont.	Dictation #1
	18	Unit 5 in the workbook	
	23	Unit 5 cont.	
	25	Unit 6 in the workbook	Assignment #1 due
30	Unit 6 cont.	Test # 1	
November	1	Lesson one	
	6	Lesson one (cont.)	Dictation #2
	8	Lesson two	
	13	Lesson two (cont.)	
	15	Lesson three	Assignment #2 due
	20	Lesson three (cont.)	Test #2
	22	Lesson four	
	27	Lesson four (cont.)	
29	Lesson five	Dictation #3	
December	4	Lesson five (cont.)	Assignment #3 due
	6	Review for the Midterm	Midterm Test #3

January 2018	8	Lesson six	
	10	Lesson six (cont.)	
	15	Lesson seven	
	17	Lesson seven (cont.)	Dictation #4
	22	Lesson eight	
	24	Lesson eight (cont.)	
	29	Lesson nine	
	31	Lesson nine (cont.)	
February	5	Lesson ten	
	7	Lesson ten (cont.)	Assignment #4 due
	12	Lesson eleven	
	14	Lesson eleven (cont.)	Test #4
	19	Reading week	
	21		
	26	Lesson twelve	Dictation #5
	28	Lesson twelve (cont.)	
March	5	Lesson thirteen	
	7	Lesson thirteen (cont.)	
	12	Lesson fourteen	
	14	Lesson fourteen (cont.)	
	19	Lesson fifteen	Assignment #5 due
	21	Lesson fifteen (cont.)	
	26	Lesson sixteen	Test #5
	28	Lesson sixteen (cont.)	
April	2	Lesson seventeen	
	4	Lesson seventeen (cont.)	
	9	Review for the final examination	
	11	Review for the final examination	

POLICIES AND PROCEDURE

Please Note that it is the **student's responsibility** to ensure that all prerequisite and co-requisite Conditions are met or that special permission to waive these requirements has been granted by the Faculty. It is also the student's responsibility to ensure that they have not taken a course listed as an Antirequisite. 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 will not be tolerated in this course. 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. The penalty for plagiarism is a mark of zero on the assignment or tests. The commission of a scholastic offence is attended by academic penalties which might include expulsion from the program. If a student is caught cheating, there will be no second warning.

Absenteeism: In case of illness and other problems, 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. Failure to notify the home faculty immediately (or as soon as possible thereafter) will have a negative effect on any appeal.

"The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal."

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



Some famous Middle Eastern
Arabic food and sweets