

University of Florida
Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures
Arabic Program
ARA 2240
Spoken Arabic
Spring 2016

Instructor: Youssef A. Haddad
Meeting Time: MWR 5th period (11:45 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.)
Room: MWF: TUR 2305; R: TUR: 1105
Office Hours: WR 3rd period (9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.) or by Appointment
Office: 357 PUGH, Tel: 273-2958
E-Mail: yah@ufl.edu
Web pages: <http://www.languages.ufl.edu/arabic/>
<http://users.clas.ufl.edu/yah/>

Prerequisite:
ARA 1131 – Beginning Arabic 2

Textbooks:

- Liddicoat, Mary-Jane, Richard Lennane, and Iman Abdul Rahim. 2008. *Syrian Colloquial Arabic*.
- Audio Material available on reserve in Library West.

Course description:

The course helps students develop listening/speaking and conversational skills at an intermediate level of proficiency. The focus is on a middle variety of Arabic known as Educated Spoken Arabic that allows them to communicate successfully with educated Arab speakers from virtually any country in the Arab world.

The course includes a mixture of Standard Arabic and Levantine Arabic (mainly Syrian Arabic of Damascus and Lebanese Arabic of Beirut). The course mimics the diglossic situation in the Arab world, whereby every country has a formal variety (Standard Arabic) and an informal variety (colloquial Arabic).

- Keywords: REPETITION and REINFORCEMENT
- Prerequisite: MOTIVATION and DISCIPLINE
- Implication: lots of WORK both at HOME and in CLASS

Course Objectives:

- Be able to orally demonstrate comprehension of authentic Arabic aural material. This includes excerpts from TV programs and other online material.
- Develop and improve speaking skills to talk about at least the following topics: self – family – relatives – friends – hobbies – daily activities – surroundings (home, school, city, country, etc.).

- Develop and improve conversational skills and the ability to deal with at least the following:
 - Situations: exchanging pleasantries – asking for, offering, accepting, and rejecting things/suggestions/propositions – asking for and giving information (time, directions, etc.)
 - Locations: airport – taxi – hotel – restaurant – market
- Expand knowledge about Arab customs, traditions and ways of life.

Course requirements:

- 1) Exams: *All exams are oral exams performed by two or three students. All exams will be graded based on a rubric provided on Canvas. There will be two types of exams:*
 - a. Three Recorded Oral Exams: (100 points each – 30%)
 These are oral performances based on prompts and road maps that I make available on Canvas a week in advance. Each pair of students is expected to carry out an evenly distributed 10-minute conversation and record it as an MP3 file; the file can then be uploaded to Canvas.
 - i. Monday, January 25
 - ii. Friday, March 11
 - iii. Friday, April 1
 - b. Two Face-to-Face Oral Exams: (150 points each – 30%)
 These are similar to the recorded exams, except that they are done in class. Students are expected to use little to no prompts.
 - i. Friday, February 12
 - ii. Wednesday, April 20
- 2) Eight Short Assignments: (400 points total – 40%)
 These are homework assignments distributed throughout the semester and assigned a week in advance. Each includes some or all of the following: Listening Comprehension – Reading Aloud (e.g., reciting poetry – performing short dialogues) – Speaking (recorded or in-class presentations).
- 3) Bonus: (20 points – 2%)
 The Arabic Program will have the following activities for all Arabic students in Spring 2016. Every activity a student attends or participates in earns her/him 5 points (or 0.5%) that will be added to the final score. All activities will take place during the 11th period (6:15-7:05 p.m.).
 - a. Thursday, January 28: Lecture in Arabic by Youssef Haddad (Topic: TBA)
 - b. Thursday, February 18: Short movie + discussion by Esam Alhadi
 - c. Thursday, March 17: Lecture in Arabic by Soraya Bouguettaya (Topic: TBA)
 - d. Thursday, April 7: Talent Show organized by Soraya Bouguettaya.
 This may include poetry, singing, acting, etc. Students from all classes may participate and will need preparation throughout the semester.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	63-66	62-60	59-

(4.0)	(3.67)	(3.33)	(3.0)	(2.67)	(2.33)	(2.0)	(1.67)	(1.33)	(1.0)	(0.67)	(0)
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Note: A grade of C– is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>;
<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Canvas: All assignments, announcements, exercises, study guides, grades, etc. will be posted on the course website on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the website regularly and keep up to date with the class.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. These need to be documented excuses. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself about the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes.

You may miss 3 sessions without any penalty. Every absence thereafter results in minus 1% deducted from your final grade unless the absence is a documented excuse. Arriving late (within 5 minutes of the beginning of class time) or leaving early (within 5 minutes before class is dismissed) is considered a half absence and results in minus .5% from the final grade. Missing more than 5 minutes of class time is considered absence.

Refer to the following website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

Late and Make-Up Work: No late work will be accepted or make-ups will be offered unless the student offers a legitimate documented excuse. See **Attendance** above.

Cell phones and other electronic devices: Students are expected to put their cellphones on silent during class sessions. No texting or cellphone/smartphone activities are allowed during class time. No electronic devices are needed in this course. Accordingly, all other electronic devices must be put away as well.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Violations of the honor code include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, bribery, misrepresentation, fabrication, and conspiracy. Such violations may result in the following: lowering of grades, mandatory 0 on assignments, redoing assignments, a final failing grade in the course, expulsion from the course, referral to the student-run Honor Court. The Honor Code states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.* For more information, refer to: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/Academic_Honesty.html

Students with Special Needs: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (Disability Resources in Reid Hall). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

Counseling & Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Other Issues: Appointments – Letters of Recommendation – E-mail

1) Appointments: No appointment is needed for meetings during office hours. If you make an appointment with me outside my office hours, please make sure you show up on time. If you wish to cancel, do so at least two hours in advance. Students who violate these will not be given a second chance.

2) Letters of recommendation: If you wish me to write you a letter of recommendation, before you approach me with a request, please make sure that:

- You do so at least three weeks before the deadline of the letter.
- You will earn / have earned at least B+ in all classes you had with me.
- You had regular attendance.
- You did all required work, including ungraded work.
- You never behaved in a disrespectful way - tacitly or otherwise - with me or your classmates.

3) E-mail: Please note that e-mail messages WITHOUT the following will be ignored:

- A meaningful subject line
- A proper greeting (at least in the first message in a series of related messages; i.e., messages with the same subject line). Examples of proper greeting include 'Dear Dr. Haddad', 'Hello Prof. Haddad'. No 'hey' or simply 'hello'.
- And please make sure you read your message over before you hit 'send'.

SCHEDULE

The textbook contains 8 lessons that take you from the airport, into a cab, and to the hotel. It guides you to order food in a restaurant, shop & bargain, and to socialize about different types of events. We will be using the lessons and the subdivisions within as our plan this semester. Each lesson will take roughly two weeks and will be supplemented with material (audio-visual material, vocabulary, conjugation charts, etc.) on Canvas.