



Instructor information:

Instructor: Sarra Tlili
Office hours: Thursday 10-12
Office: Pugh Hall, 354
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meeting times and places

Days	Per	Bldg	Room
T	08	MAT	115
R	08-09	MAT	115

Course description and objectives

This course is designed to help students reach a high-medium to advanced proficiency level in **speaking, listening, reading-comprehension**, and a medium proficiency in **writing**. Students who acquire the vocabulary actively and develop active skills will be able to:

- Read a range of styles in Arabic, from formal to informal and journalistic to expository
- With economical and judicious use of a dictionary, understand texts of general interest
- Carry out basic research and understand main ideas in non-technical writing
- Use context and grammar to identify the form and guess the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Initiate and sustain discussion on topics of general interest
- Present information and basic narratives in semiformal language
- Understand the main points of lectures and media programs on familiar topics
- Be able to write essays and opinion pieces on topics that have been studied
- Read, write, and speak with increasing grammatical accuracy
- Identify a range of important figures and ideas in Arabic literary and cultural history

Students are expected to come with fair knowledge of the **root and pattern system** of the Arabic language, which will be instrumental in learning new vocabulary and guessing the meaning of new words. Close attention will be paid to complex sentence structure.

How to prepare for this course:

Vocabulary:

Study your vocabulary before coming to class. You'll need more than one skill to **memorize** and **activate** your vocabulary:

- Repeat while you listen, try to write the word over and over again while saying it aloud, or write the word as you listen to it.
- Pay attention to grammatical information given in the vocabulary lists. The dictionary form of a word is usually not the one you need, so play with various forms of new words: past, present, future, different persons, singular, and plural.
- Learning vocabulary actively means combining **mechanical** practice, **personalization**, and **play**.
 - Mechanical practice involves listening to, repeating aloud, and writing out the words and their contextualizing sentences.
 - Personalization involves using the word in a context **meaningful to you**.
 - Playtime, having fun with words and sentences, may be the most important of these three.
- Please note: to encourage you to memorize your vocabulary there will be one quiz on new vocabulary items with every new lesson and additional pop quizzes to the same effect. The point is to give you one extra incentive to memorize your vocabulary well. This is a straightforward and manageable task that can help significantly with your final grade

Grammar

First, **memorize your *awzān*** (root and pattern system). Your knowledge of them is essential to working at an advanced level of Arabic.

For each lesson, study the theoretical part **before** coming to class. Class time will be used to discuss and explain the rules only if you find them too difficult.

Required Course Materials

Mahdi Alish. *Ahlan wa Sahlan: Functional Modern Standard Arabic for Intermediate Learners* (second edition). New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006, 2013.

Arabic-English Dictionary: The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic

Course Requirements

Attendance: You are allowed to miss three 50-minute sessions. Beyond this, any unexcused absence will cost you **half** a point of your **COURSE** grade (If your course

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grade is A, with one unexcused absence it becomes A-, etc.). If you are absent for a valid reason, please inform me as soon as you can and bring supporting documentation (for example: doctor's note). Please note: if you ask for permission to miss class for a personal reason I will interpret this as a sign of courtesy and respect on your part only. I will not allow you more than three absences.

Late arrivals. Arriving to class after the first five minutes for three times will be the equivalent of one absence. Note also that pop quizzes are usually given in the first five minutes of class. If you fail to take or finish your quiz you will **NOT** be given a second chance to take it.

Participation: Class participation is crucial to language learning. In order to earn full credit for your participation you need to be fully present (body and soul!) Your participation needs also to reflect your familiarity with the course material (new vocabulary, grammar, themes of discussion, etc.).

Homework: Homework will be assigned on most days. Your homework needs to be submitted through Canvas before you come to class.

Your homework must be neat and legible: If I cannot read your handwriting I will not grade your assignment (this means an "F"). English assignments must be typed. With both Arabic and English assignments pay close attention to stylistic and grammatical details. Failure to do so will affect your grades.

More often mistakes will be circled but not corrected. If you are unsure how to correct your mistakes, please bring this up during class time or discuss it with me during my office hours.

Quizzes: There will be a vocabulary quiz for each lesson as well as pop quizzes on both vocabulary and grammar.

Tests: There will be 2 midterms and one final. The following are tentative dates:

- September 27th
- November 1st
- December 6th

Presentations

- Conduct five conversations with a conversation partner then give short presentations on each presentation in class. Toward the end of the semester give a 15-minute presentation describing your experience and summing up your conversations. You can have conversation partners either through
 - Talkabroad.com: there is a total charge of \$50 for these conversations.
 - Find your own conversation partner at UF. This person must be a native speaker of Arabic and you need to introduce her/him to me.

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- If you can find a conversation partner through other channels let me know.

Grading:

Attendance and homework: 25%

First midterm: 15%

Second midterm: 15%

Final: 15%

Quizzes: 10%

Presentations: 20%

Grade distribution

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

General administrative issues

A C- grade will not be sufficient for Majors or Minors or count towards a GE or Gordon Rule Credit or College Basic Distribution Credit. See UF website on grading policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Canvas

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

Cell Phones and other electronic devices:

Students are expected to turn off - or put on silent + no vibration - and put away all cell phones during class sessions. Phones and other electronic devices may be used only when they are needed for certain class activities.

Academic Honesty

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

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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. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. More information can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Letters of recommendation:

If you wish me to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf, before you approach me with a request, please make sure that:

- 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.

Final Points:

- When you email me allow 24 hours to receive a reply.
- Feel free to address me as يا أستاذة
- I look forward to an exciting and fulfilling semester!

Course Plan

In this semester we plan to cover 6 to 7 chapters from *Ahlan wa-Sahlan*, starting with chapter 11. We will spend an average of two weeks on each chapter. You should expect to spend six hours per week on the preparation of your homework, and more (informal) time on the memorization of the new vocabulary (Repeat your new words when you shower, exercise, drive - even when you dream during your sleep :)).

Please Note: There are no classes on Tuesday October 4th and Tuesday November 22nd.