ARAB 111 - A1  Beginners' Arabic I
(Fall Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Houssem Ben Lazreg
Office: 242 A Old Arts Building
E-mail: benlazre@ualberta.ca

Time: T/R 09:30AM - 10:50AM
Place: Remote (Zoom Links)
Office Hours: M/F 13.00 PM – 14.00 PM
or by appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:
https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students

Course Prerequisite: None
It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Technology requirements (minimum): It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

Experiential Learning Component
☐ this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?
☐ Yes  √ No, not needed

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available
☐ Exam registry – Students’ Union
   http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/
☐ See explanations below
☐ Document distributed in class
☐ Other (please specify)
√ NA
Course Description and Objectives:

ARAB 111 - A1 is intended for students who have had no prior experience with the language. **Students who can read and write MSA and have a fair knowledge of grammar are encouraged to write a placement test so that they can register in ARAB 113 (heritage class) or a higher level.**

Arab 111 aims at building basic skills in MSA, the language read and understood by educated Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula to Morocco. During this term, we will cover the introductory book, *Alif Baa* (including the Arabic alphabet, diacritical marks, and speech sounds), and **five lessons** in *al-Kitaab fii Ta`alum al`Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One*. These lessons aim to create a bridge between classroom and real-life situations. Each lesson includes vocabulary, grammar, drills, and video examples of conversational situations. The course teaches you simple conversation skills, which will help you to interact with Arabic speakers, and help you to teach yourself Arabic beyond the scope of the classroom.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to master knowledge of the Arabic alphabet, different types of structural sentences, reading simple MSA texts, advertisements, and news items.

In addition, students should be able to:

- Introduce themselves and communicate where they are from, where they live, what are they studying, and what are their hobbies, and ask their peers questions to obtain reciprocal information.
- Describe family members and friends, talk about seasons and studies, provide some basic information about Arab countries, and be able to write a simple paragraph about one of the basic topics studied.

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be achieved from a combination of in-class conversations, group activities in (zoom rooms), individual drills and tasks (on Moodle), assigned readings, audiovisual materials, and homework. **There will be two hours and forty minutes of instruction per week, accompanied with few hours to complete course content online on Moodle.**

**Texts:**

3. Additional handouts will be uploaded on Eclass to provide additional examples and explanations of textbook materials.

**Additional Course Fees**

☐ Yes  √ No
Important Dates: See Academic Schedule in current Calendar

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020
Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020
50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020
Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020
Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020
Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020
Final Exam Date: 11-Dec-2020 (Friday) @ 9:00 a.m.

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site: https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=33&navoid=9816&hl=%22academic+regulations%22&returnto=search#examinations_exams

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see “I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Movie review (due last day of class/submitted on Moodle)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test #1 on October 1st</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test #2 on November 5th</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral exam will be held between November 24th and November 26th and</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flipgrid video projects</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2020-2021 academic year can be found at the following site: https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2020-winter-2021-exam-planner.html?
**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Monday (work to be completed on Eclass)</th>
<th>Tuesday 11:00 - 12:20 CLASS TIME</th>
<th>Wednesday (work to be completed on Eclass)</th>
<th>Thursday 11:00 – 12:20 CLASS TIME</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEP 1</td>
<td>SEP 2</td>
<td>SEP 3</td>
<td>Syllabus+ Arabic alphabets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 7</td>
<td>SEP 8</td>
<td>SEP 9</td>
<td>SEP 10</td>
<td>Alif baa: Arabic alphabets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 15</td>
<td>SEP 16</td>
<td>SEP 17</td>
<td>Alif baa: Arabic alphabets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 21</td>
<td>SEP 22</td>
<td>SEP 23</td>
<td>SEP 24</td>
<td>Alif baa: Arabic alphabets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 28</td>
<td>SEP 29</td>
<td>SEP 30</td>
<td>OCT 1</td>
<td>Alif baa: Arabic alphabets, Test 1: SEP 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 5</td>
<td>OCT 6</td>
<td>OCT 7</td>
<td>OCT 8</td>
<td>Alif baa: Arabic alphabets</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 12</td>
<td>OCT 13</td>
<td>OCT 14</td>
<td>OCT 15</td>
<td>Al kitab: Unit 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 19</td>
<td>OCT 20</td>
<td>OCT 21</td>
<td>OCT 22</td>
<td>Al kitab: Unit 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 26</td>
<td>OCT 27</td>
<td>OCT 28</td>
<td>OCT 29</td>
<td>Al kitab: Unit 3, Test 2: OCT 29th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 2</td>
<td>NOV 3</td>
<td>NOV 4</td>
<td>NOV 5</td>
<td>Al kitab: Unit 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 9</td>
<td>NOV 10</td>
<td>NOV 11</td>
<td>NOV 12</td>
<td>Reading week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 16</td>
<td>NOV 17</td>
<td>NOV 18</td>
<td>NOV 19</td>
<td>Al kitab: Unit 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 23</td>
<td>NOV 24</td>
<td>NOV 25</td>
<td>NOV 26</td>
<td>Oral exams + Al kitab: Unit 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 30</td>
<td>DEC 1</td>
<td>DEC 2</td>
<td>DEC 3</td>
<td>Review for final exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

- Homework is given every week. It is marked according to accuracy. (Completion solely guarantees a partial grade)
- It is the student’s responsibility to recover missed assignments in case of absence.
- *An absence is not an excuse for not being tested on what you have missed.*
- *Excused absence does not mean an automatic excused “homework extension”:* if the absence is on a Thursday the student should submit the h.w. to the instructor by e-mail. before the following Monday.
- Participation in class includes *taking part in class/group activities (in Zoom rooms e.g.) and discussions, answering the instructor’s questions, preparing for the assigned class material* prior to the lesson (watching the DVD, reading vocabulary, etc.), and *exhibiting a positive attitude* in class with respect to material, time, peers, instructor.
- *Tests* are designed to test mastery of class materials (reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and writing). There will be a review session prior to each quiz and a feedback session afterwards. A sample quiz will be available online.
- *Final exam* will include reading comprehension, essay writing, and grammar. A sample final will be available online.
- *Movie review in English (100-150 words):* you have to watch an Arabic movie (samples will be provided on Eclass) and write a review about it (why did you chose it, summary, themes, why did you like it or not). It is due last day of class.
- *Flip Grid videos:* you will be asked to record and submit a video (through flip grid) where you give a short presentation about a specific topic related to the chapters and themes covered. See more instructions on Eclass.
- *Oral Exam:* The exam consists of a conversation between a student, a peer and your teacher on Zoom/Google meetup. The conversation will last about 7-8 minutes, your teacher will ask you a few questions as needed, and you must contribute to the conversation as best as possible. Grading of the oral component is based on the student’s level in comprehension, self-expression in MSA, use of formal structures, and avoiding colloquial language.

Required Notes:
Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

*Academic Integrity:*
The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students
are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult the Academic Integrity website. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

Language and Translation Courses:
Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student’s own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:
The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the Office of the Student Ombuds. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL.

Sexual Violence Policy:
It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence

Territorial Statement:
“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations,
Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (from the beginning of the Calendar).

**Recording of Lectures:**
Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

**Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:**
Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections Attendance and Examinations of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, “attendance and participation” means attending each class, from the beginning to the end, paying attention to the instructor, and participating fully in all class activities (in Zoom rooms).

Regular attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences and lateness will negatively impact your grade. If absence is due to severe illness or any other considerable reason, student should inform the instructor before the beginning of class (by e-mail). The instructor may accept reasonable excuse for absence with no penalty three times throughout the course, otherwise frequent excused absences (with no emergency reasons) will impact your grade. In case of unexcused and unjustified absence from test and/or exam, the instructor may not accept to rescheduling.

**Policy for Late Assignments:**
- Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just two times throughout the course with no penalty.
- Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time, unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. No third excuse will be granted.
- Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.
Disclaimer:
Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:
The best all-purpose website for student services is: https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)
The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the Accessibility Resources webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)
The Academic Success Centre offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)
The Centre for Writers offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the Health and Wellness Support webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:
The Office of the Student Ombuds offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:
Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, Evaluation Procedures and Grading System). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student’s level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:
## “MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excellent.</strong> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>97-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>93-96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good.</strong> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Satisfactory.</strong> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poor/Minimal Pass.</strong> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Failure.</strong></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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