Elementary Modern Standard Arabic (ARABIC 102, Sect’s 01&02)
A Language and Culture Course
Spring 2014

Lecturer:

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Textbook:

1. Mahdi Alosh, Ahlan wa Sahlan, Letters and Sounds of the Arabic Language, 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition (Required)

2. Mahdi Alosh, Ahlan wa Sahlan, Functional Modern Standard Arabic for Beginners, 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition (Required)

Grading:

Grading will be computed on the following basis. Final grades will be the accumulative points from:

- Participation: 10%
- Conversation: 15%
- Homework assignments: 20%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Exams: 30%
- Poetry: 10%

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Course Description and Goals:

Ahlan wa Sahlan! Welcome to Arabic!
The spring course is a continuation; we will pick up where we left off last semester.

Elementary Modern Standard Arabic brings you the opportunity to learn Arabic via a communicative approach, where the emphasis is placed on the functional use of the Arabic Language. We will use modern media in an innovative language learning method that should be both exciting and motivating. So prepare for active participation in class.

The class will meet five times a week to work on building your communicative skills and knowledge of Arab culture. Language is naturally and primarily acquired through hearing and listening to strings of sounds. When it comes to learning and teaching a second language it is strongly advisable to imitate the acquisition process of first, language as well as to learn how to read texts; hence the materials of this course will expose you to a large quantity of aural and written texts. This exposition to real-life Arabic can be the most challenging and rewarding exercise you undertake.

In one academic year (or its equivalent), students will be guided to learn the Arabic alphabet, vocabulary, syntax, grammar, and be able to converse in the target language as an intermediate-low speaker or better (ACTFLE standards). Additionally, students will be exposed to some aspects of the Arabic culture, customs, and traditions.

Objectives:

1. In Speaking, students are expected by the end of fall semester to have active control over basic sounds of Modern Standard Arabic. Students are expected to be able to communicate orally (with teacher and amongst themselves) on topics related to basic personal information of self, family, friends, and school. Students are expected to be able to ask questions pertaining to these topics. Please refer to the ACTFL website for information on what’s expected of Novice Mid and Novice High learners, at http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3325.

2. In writing, students are expected by the end of the semester to control all basic features of the cursive mode of the Arabic writing system, i.e. handwriting. Written discourse produced by the end of the semester focuses on expressing ideas of self, family, immediate needs, likes and dislikes. Students are expected to compose 100-150 words on any of these topics. Throughout the semester you will be given short writing assignments. The length of the writing assignments will increase gradually until, by the end of the semester, you will be comfortable writing 100-150 words about yourself.

3. In reading, students are expected by the end of the course to recognize all basic features of the Arabic writing system in printed form. From the beginning, students in this course are exposed to simple authentic reading materials taken from newspapers, Internet and magazines, and the like.

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4. In **listening**, students are expected by the end of the semester to recognize basic sounds and phonological features of Modern Standard Arabic. They are expected to comprehend aural information, whether on tape or in face to face conversations, pertaining to personal information and immediate needs. Students are NOT expected at this level to understand or be understood by native speakers unless communication is on a very basic level and on the topics that have been specified above. Please refer to the ACTFL guidelines.

5. **Cultural Awareness.** Arab culture and the Arabic language are intertwined, linguistically, politically, spiritually, and socially. I will introduce elements of the Arab culture/cultures embedded in the daily instruction and via documentaries, class discussions, readings (in English of course), music, class presentations . . . etc. every Friday of each week of instruction. This aspect of the course does constitute part of your final grade.

**Course readings:**

In addition to materials contained in the textbooks, there will be additional poetry texts that are designed to enhance the students’ ability to read and speak the language continuously (transition from one word to the next). Students are expected to memorize the assigned passages by the indicated times.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Participation: Students are required to participate in all lectures.

2. In-Class Assignments: At the beginning of each class session (every class hour, and starting in the second week), students will be asked to carry a short dialogue/conversation with a classmate. Students will be randomly selected so each student must be ready every day.

3. Homework Assignments: There will be daily homework assignments some of which will be collected. These assignments must be done at home and on time, they will not be corrected in class, but students can ask in class if they have a question about a particular drill or sentence. Remember that most exams will be based on the assigned drills, so those who do the HW will do well on the exams.

4. Quizzes: There will be at least 5 quizzes. (The first may cover the alphabet—connecting letters etc. –and some vocab.)

5. Exams: Exams; there will be one comprehensive exam at the conclusion of every chapter, and a final exam/ composition/presentation.

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**Extensions:**

Extensions (for making up quizzes exams) should be requested in advance. Unexcused, late work will be penalized. Students may miss one quiz and make it up given the student provides a valid reason for missing any quiz or exam.

Students are responsible for making use of the audio and video materials that constitute an integral part of class materials.

**Attendance:**

As the syllabus indicates, attendance is important. It includes coming on time and it directly affects your grade. Language learning is a highly cumulative process. It is like making a tower out of blocks: you keep building on top of what you did the day before. You are granted three (3) excused absences throughout the semester. Each subsequent absence will result in a deduction of one point from your 10% allocated for participation.

**Classroom Sessions:**

1st Class will be on January 27, 2014

(Section 01) Meets every day (M T W R F) at Liberal Arts Building; Room No. 335
From 12:10 to 1:00

(Sections 02) Meets every day (M T W R F) at Liberal Arts Building; Room No. 342
From 3:10 to 4:00

**Final:** Section 01, Tuesday, May 13th 2014 from 10:10 to 12:10
  Section 02, Monday, May 12th 2014 from 3:20 to 5:20

**Office Hours:**

I will be in my office from 9:00- 11:00 on T, R, and on F and from 2:00-3:00. Everyone is encouraged and is welcomed to come in, visit and practice Arabic. I am also available by appointment.

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