

University of Wisconsin - Stout

Foreign Language

First Semester Arabic, Fall 2019

Course Number: Arab 101

Credits: 4

Instructor: Salah Algabli

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Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays 9 am-10 am or by appointment

Skype Virtual Office ID: Salaahalgabli

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5895325706>

Course Description

This course is the first in a series that aims at helping you achieve communicative competence in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). You will spend the first ten weeks of the semester learning the sounds, shapes and spelling conventions of the alphabet of MSA. This course of study represents the first step in the acquisition of the basic skills in the areas of listening, reading, speaking, and writing for students new to the language. These skills will acquire more life when they are placed in the cultural context of Arab and Islamic cultures, a context that is indispensable in the pursuit of mutual communication and understanding. Emphasis will be placed on MSA, the variety used in most forms of media and official and formal communication throughout the Arabic-speaking world, though you may learn some of your language facilitator's colloquial dialect and/or the other two dialects represented in the textbook as well.

The course is based upon the book and audio-visual materials, combined into DVDs, which are bound into both books. The book, *Alif Baa*, contains dictation, writing, listening, and pronunciation exercises and teaches students how to recognize (in listening and reading) and produce (in speaking and writing) both letters and sounds correctly.

The course will begin by acquainting students with the sounds and shapes of the alphabet, while at the same time introducing them to ways of speaking in basic conversations. After finishing *Alif Baa*, students will be able to read and write the alphabet. Much practice will be required of students so as to attain the course objectives; This is a four-credit primarily **online course** with a weekly discussion section. Students are expected to spend at least 2 hours per day working on assigned activities. In addition to practicing the sounds and letters of MSA, you will be able to share information about yourself and your family, both orally and in writing, by the end of the course.

Required Textbook

Al-Tonsi, A., Al-Batal, M., Brustad, K., *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*. Third Edition, Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2010. **In addition**, each student must purchase access to the companion website. Find more information about for the companion website access for Alif Baa course on Canvas.

Canvas

All materials will be posted on Canvas, including the weekly schedule. Students will use Canvas to complete their online quizzes, assignments, and to check their grades, updated as the class progresses.

Keep in Mind

ABSOLUTELY NO GOOGLE TRANSLATE OR OTHER ONLINE TRANSLATORS. The use of such devices will be considered plagiarism and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the University Academic Integrity Policy. In addition, they translate horribly most of the ideas you want to express and turn your drafts into incomprehensible word salads, so steer clear from those.

Evaluation

- 25%: Preparation/ Weekly Assignments
- 15% Online Homework (ALifBaa Companion Website)
- 10%: Attendance/Arabic Discussion
- 15%: Quizzes
- 10%: Final Film Project
- 10%: Midterm Exam
- 15%: Final Exam (Written and Oral)

Final Grades

You will be assigned a final grade based on the following scale:

- A 90-100
- A- 87-89
- B+ 85-86
- B 80-84
- B- 77-79
- C+ 75-76
- C 70-74
- C- 67-69
- D+ 64-66
- D 62-63
- D- 61-62
- F 60

Weekly assignments, preparation, participation, and communication

Attendance, preparation, participation, and prompt communication with your instructor are crucial to your success in this course. An online course requires rigorous planning, organization, and steady, everyday participation in the assigned activities, so that you can learn constantly and avoid “cramming” for assignments. “Cramming” does not lead to good lasting results in any subject matter and even less so in a foreign language. Arabic Language needs to be practiced every day for you to achieve your goals.

Also, you will have assignments to complete almost every day in preparation for this course. All assignments will be graded and given feedback. You are expected to spend at least 2 hours per credit hour on homework and assigned activities, which must be submitted on Canvas (**Look at the Weekly Assignment Schedule**). In the event that no homework is assigned, you should spend that time reviewing material. Late homework will receive zero points.

Please Note:

- In the context of our textbook “prepare” means to do all of the following: read, watch the accompanying videos, listen to the accompanying Listening Exercises, do the at-home MSA drills (the colloquial ones are recommended but not required), and practice the new vocabulary. (Focus on the “Formal/Written” Vocabulary, i.e. the blue column.)

Online Homework

The work you do on the companion website is visible to me and will be reflected in your grade after the end of each unit or lesson.

Assignments in Canvas and/or in the Al Kitaab companion site may list a due time that is not accurate and should be disregarded. Assignments are due as listed in this Assignment Schedule

Late homework and tasks will lose 10% per day.

Make-up Policy

- Make-up quizzes and tests are not given EXCEPT for sickness or official activities.
- It is your responsibility to notify me and arrange a make-up quiz/test in advance. In the case of illness/emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

Arabic Discussion

You are required to participate at one hour with the language facilitator each week. Arabic discussion is designed to practice Arabic with a native speaker which will improve your oral performance. You are expected to converse in Arabic only. Your language facilitator will report to me if you were there for a full hour and spoke only in Arabic while there.

You will be evaluated based on your oral participation in class every session. Using English in class will negatively affect your oral performance grade. Each session, you will be given an oral performance grade that ranges from 0-5, based on the following criteria:

- 5 attend class, arrive on time, listen to others, volunteer to speak, engage with conversation partner, avoid English, demonstrate preparation**
- 4 attend class, arrive on time, listen to others, engage with conversation partner, avoid English, demonstrate preparation but participate only when called on**
- 3 attend class but participate minimally, or be late, or use English or be unprepared**
- 2 attend class but participate minimally, use English, and demonstrate lack of preparation**
- 1 attend class but do not participate**
- 0 miss class**

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given every other week online. They will become available on **Fridays at noon**, and you must complete your quiz by the time and date indicated (**Mondays at midnight**). Quizzes will be opened only for three days. You may redo quizzes for a higher grade; your final attempt will be the grade that is counted, even if it is lower than an earlier attempt. If you find that a quiz that is supposed to be available online is not, please email me immediately. Only those who do so will be allowed extra time to complete the quiz if necessary.

Quizzes are designed to allow you to assess yourself and for me to see where you may need help. It is up to you to use quizzes to your advantage by following the principles of academic integrity, completing them without help from books, dictionaries, or friends. Remember that when you take the oral tests and final written exam as you will not have any help, so use quizzes to help prepare yourself for the exams.

Final Film Project

You will create a video speaking about yourself, your family, your city...etc. More information will be posted as we move forward of the course.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will occur on Friday of Week 8 and will cover all material you have learned in Weeks 1-7. Unlike quizzes, the midterm will test your ability to put everything you've learned together.

Final Written Exam

A comprehensive final examination, to be administered in the two-hour block on Canvas. No make-up exams or rescheduling will be permitted. The final exam will test your ability to put everything you've learned together to communicate in real situations.

Final Oral Exam

You will have one oral exam during the semester. There will be NO MAKE-UP TESTS EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A UNIVERSITY APPROVED EXCUSE.

Communication with your professor

From you to your professor:

Best method

Email me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

NOTE: Emailing does not absolve students from any course responsibility or deadline unless you receive confirmation from me. There may be periods when I do not have regular email access, however, I will respond as quickly as possible because I know that your communications are important! I will check my email daily. Unless otherwise noted, emails received after 6:00 PM M-F will be answered the next weekday morning. The most important thing about communicating with me is that you do so. Make arrangements with me so we can look at things together before you get behind or frustrated.

From Salah Algabli to you: Any urgent news or info will be announced on Canvas and via email so make sure to check your email daily. I strongly encourage you to enable the email function for “News” items on Canvas so that you can receive any notifications immediately.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You have the right to expect that your classmates are upholding the academic integrity of this University. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense at the University because it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty between members of the community and defrauds those who may eventually depend upon our knowledge and integrity. Such dishonesty consists of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. The University of Wisconsin-

Stout has established a range of penalties for students guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Appropriate penalties include suspension or expulsion from the university, a failing grade for a course, a failing grade for the assignment, or a reduced grade on a redone assignment. All instances of serious plagiarism are reported to the Dean of Students.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

Information regarding special accommodation processes- Disability Services is committed to creating equal access and opportunity to all campus programs and services for persons with disabilities. <https://www.uwstout.edu/life-stout/student-services/disability-services/means-equal-access> (Links to an external site.) are provided to students with documented disabilities to provide them the opportunity to show their abilities and capabilities, not highlight their disabilities. <https://www.uwstout.edu/life-stout/student-services/disability-services> (Links to an external site.)

Religious observances

According to the university's policy: A student's claim of a religious conflict, which may include travel time, should be accepted at face value. A great variety of valid claims exist for religious groups, and there is no practical, dignified, and legal means to assess the validity of individual claims. State law mandates that any student with a conflict between an academic requirement and any religious observance must be given an alternative for meeting the academic requirement. The law also stipulates that students be given a mechanism by which they can conveniently and confidentially notify an instructor of the conflict. If any of the course assignments conflict with a religious observance, please notify your instructor within the first two weeks of semester of the specific days or dates on which you need to make alternative arrangements.