

**ARAB 1501 – Section 16878**  
**MW 10:00-11:45 & F 10:00-11:30 - Room: 11AH**  
**&**  
**ARAB 1501 – Section 16876**  
**MW 1:00-2:45 & F 1:00-2:30 –Room C108**  
**1501**  
**Beginning Arabic I, FALL 2009**

**Instructor:** Nahid Mohamed  
**Office:** 430 Agnes Arnold Hall, Tel: (713) 743-9141  
**Office Hours:** 11:45-12:45, 3:00-3:30 MW, and by appointment  
**E-mail:** [Nahid\\_Osman@uh.edu](mailto:Nahid_Osman@uh.edu)  
**Arabic Web Site:** <http://www.hfac.uh.edu/mcl/arabic>

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

ARAB 1501 emphasizes the ability to read and write the language beside learning to interact orally with others. This course is only for students with no prior knowledge of Arabic. Students with prior knowledge of Arabic should consult with Ms. Tawhida El-Askary, the Arabic Director for placement in the appropriate class.

The teaching/learning process in this course is proficiency-oriented, with emphasis on the functional use of Arabic and communication in context in the four language skills: **listening, speaking, reading and writing.**

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of Arabic 1501 you will, In-Shaa’A-llah:

1. Master the Arabic alphabet and its sound system, be able to distinguish and pronounce all Arabic sounds, and write accurately from dictation;
2. Initiate social interactions, ask for basic information, and be aware of basic cultural aspects of social interaction in the Arab world;
3. Be able to talk about yourself, your education, and your family with any native speaker of Arabic;
4. Comprehend simple written texts on familiar topics;
5. Comprehend simple audio/video texts on familiar topics;
6. Be able to compose simple paragraphs about yourself; and
7. Be familiar with some of the differences between formal and spoken Arabic.

**III. COURSE MATERIALS:**

- Alif Baa: An Introduction. To Arabic Letters and Sounds, Brustad, Al-Batal, & Al-Tonsi (2<sup>ND</sup> edition)
- Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Part I. We will use this text after finishing Alif Baa, beginning whenever the schedule indicates.
- Recommended: Hans wehr Dictionary.

#### **IV. APPRACH AND TECHNIQUE:**

The preparation of each new lesson in the textbook, including vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and pronunciation is mainly the responsibility of the student. In preparation for classes, students are required to: 1) listen to the vocabulary and basic text on the DVD, 2) practice reading and writing the vocabulary until they have thoroughly familiarized themselves with the spelling and pronunciation of each word, and 3) prepare written answers to the questions about the text in the book.

In class, students are expected to engage in activities related to the content of the prepared lesson and related functions for which mastery of the new vocabulary and structures is essential. Active participation in all class activities is of paramount importance to progress in language learning, and to achieving the highest level of proficiency.

The cultural element is an integral part of this course. Each new lesson raises new issues of cultural understanding and awareness. Audio and video material such as songs, films, and documentaries are used to this end.

#### **V. COURSE EVALUATION & REGULATIONS:**

##### **1. Class participation and attendance (15%):**

- You must attend classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. This means listening to CDs/online material and learning new vocabulary and structure so that you can actively use them in class.
- **Don not skip classes. Please inform us of absence in advance—not after—the class you will miss.**
- Students absent 4 times or more will be dropped from class. **No EXCEPTION.**
- Two tardies equal one absence.
- **TURN OFF** pagers and cell phones when in class.

##### **2. Homework Assignments (15%):**

- There will be written assignments due at the **beginning** of class on the day designated in the syllabus.
- Late homework assignments may be checked but **WILL NOT BE GIVEN FULL CREDIT**.
- You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together, with the stipulation that each student must participate fully in doing the work and must submit her/his own individual paper.
- Please hand in homework written out on a separate sheet of paper; **PAGES XEROXED OUT OF THE BOOK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**.
- It is important to follow up on any instructor's comments on your homework, and it is your responsibility to come to office hours or make an appointment to see us.
- The homework will include **Journal**. Instructions will be given later.

### **3. Quizzes (30%)**

1. Several announced or **sometimes unannounced quizzes** will be given in the material we have already covered.
2. There will be no make up for missed quizzes (Unless you have a valid excuse to be absent in that day).

### **4. Tests (30%):**

1. There will be three tests throughout the semester.
2. Each test will carry 10 % of the overall grade.
3. No make ups will be given for any of these tests without a valid excuse.
4. The dates of these tests will be specified in the course schedule.

### **5. Oral presentation (10%):**

There will be a final Oral presentation or oral discussion at the end of the semester at the end of the semester. Details about this project will be given by the instructor in class. Each student will present his/ her final paper/discussion in Arabic or answer questions in dialogue form with the instructor within the following guidelines:

1. Each student will have **five minutes** to present the paper.
2. The presentation will be presented totally in *Modern standard* Arabic.
3. A clear voice projection is required.
4. NO reading from notes will be allowed.
5. Use any aids. (Pictures, posters, etc)
6. Do not rely on a native speaker of Arabic to prepare the presentation for you.

