

ARAB 3301- Section 16884
Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I
اللغة العربية 3301

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

ARABIC 3301 is based on newspaper articles taken from different parts of the Arab World. Cultural aspects are carefully intertwined along with the language in the course. We have selected thirty different topics that revolve around a number of themes, including: economics, politics, sports, environment, etc. Under each topic we present three articles. At the end of the course, students should be able to read Arabic newspapers with good general understanding, especially in the following subjects: humanities - health – markets - contemporary diseases - Arabic songs.

Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: successful completion of ARAB 2302 or 2308 with a minimum grade of C- in the twelve months immediately prior to enrollment or by placement exam immediately prior to enrollment.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of Arabic 3301 you will be able to, In-Shaa’A-llah:

1. Be able to read Arabic newspaper articles and be able to understand main ideas on a variety of topics;
2. Be able to expand your speech beyond social interactions to discuss some of the problems that are of interest to Arabs;
3. Comprehend simple to more complex written texts on familiar topics;
4. Comprehend simple audio/video texts on familiar topics;
5. Be able to express your views in simple terms about issues that are of interest to the educated people in the Arab world; and
6. Be familiar with some of the differences between formal and spoken Arabic.

III. APPROACH AND TECHNIQUE

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

The course presents a systematic and structured material in Modern Standard Arabic. It is organized as follows. First, words related to specific themes are given. Then, those words are used in daily situations. Finally, a grammar analysis of the sentences is laid out. Emphasis is equally given to comprehension skills (listening and reading) as well as to production skills (speaking and writing).

The cultural element is an integral part of this course. Each new lesson raises new issues of cultural understanding and awareness.

IV. COURSE EVALUATION & REGULATIONS

There are two main components that must be completed in order to obtain complete credit for the course:

1. The Online Arabic Language Course
2. The Final Exam

1. The Online Arabic Language Course

The following are the components of the online Arabic Language course:

1. Attendance

You are encouraged to study online as often as you can. You may choose the time and days that are convenient to you. You have to LOG OFF at the end of every session from the Arab Academy bar, in order to record the time that you spent on the session.

2. Online Activities

Every session comprises a large number of activities. You are expected to complete 100% of the total questions on those activities for every session. This helps you understand and learn the material and prepares you for the test .

3. Writing

You are expected to submit a composition at the end of every session. This forms an important part of the learning process as it allows you to produce Arabic. Our teachers correct your compositions and send them back to you.

4. Online Tests

At the end of every session, there is an online test that you should take. The test is very similar to the classroom activities. It is recommended that you take the tests before the deadlines. Every test is to be taken just once. Should you meet a technical problem during the test, you may take the test again.

2. The Final Exam

The final exam is composed of five sections:

- Listening
- Reading
- Structure
- Writing
- Speaking

Evaluation Criteria

Course Component	Score
1. Online Arabic Language Course	76%
2. Final Exam	24%
<i>Total Course Score</i>	100%

The following are the details of the evaluation criteria of each component:

1. Evaluation Criteria for the Online Arabic Language Course

Component	Score
Attendance (Online Sessions)	10%
Online Activities	40%
Writing	10%
Online Tests (Examination Center)	40%

2. Evaluation Criteria for the Final Exam

Component	Score
Listening	25%
Reading	25%
Structure	20%
Writing	20%
Speaking	10%

V. LOGISTICS

The University of Houston is using the platform of Arab Academy (www.arabacademy.com) to deliver its online Arabic language courses. The Arab Academy is supposed to be your textbook, but it is really much more than that. It is a "place" where you will study, write and chat in Arabic, and make friends with other students of Arabic. You will get support from the teachers and technicians online. You will be able to access your online report with your scores, see where your points of weaknesses are, and get back to work on them, bringing your grade up.

You need to register in order to get your passwords. University of Houston students are getting reduced rates of \$40 per credit hour or \$120 for the full course. U of H registration pages are found at:

<http://www.arabacademy.com/register/houston>

As soon as you register, you will get your passes by email. You should start working on the course immediately. There will be a schedule that you will be expected to follow.

While the course is self-paced in the sense that you can study at the time that is most convenient for you, you should do your best to follow the schedule. You should not leave your work till the end of the semester, as you will not be able to catch up.

We will use the boards of the Arab Academy to communicate in English and Arabic. You will be submitting writing compositions for correction that will be corrected and sent back to you .

If you have a question related to the content of the courses, post a message on the "Teachers' Board". If you have a technical question, then post a message on "Technical Support's" board.

VII. IMPORTANT DATES:

Here are some important dates that you should remember:

- August 24, 09: First Day of Class.
- September 8, 09: Last day to drop or withdraw without receiving a grade.
- November 4, 09: Last day to drop a course or withdraw
- December 14, 09. Last day of classes.
- December 14, 09: Final exam. You can take it at any time on Monday up to noon (Houston time). You should make sure to complete all your online course requirements before then. No extensions are allowed.
- December 18, 09: Official closing of the fall semester. Noon

VIII. SCHEDULE

- Week 1:* Lesson 1 - Negligence
- Week 2:* Lesson 2 - Greed
- Week 3:* Lesson 3 - Fire
- Week 4:* Lesson 4 - Weak Memory
- Week 5:* Lesson 5 - Coffee and Cigarettes
- Week 6:* Lesson 6 - Harmful Effects of Sun
- Week 7:* Lesson 7 - Historical Markets
- Week 8* Lesson 8 - Markets of Jeddah
- Week 9:* Revision
- Week 10:* Lesson 9 - Om Dorman Market
- Week 11:* Lesson 10 - Back Pains
- Week 12:* Lesson 11 - Depression
- Week 13:* Lesson 12 - Worrying
- Week 14:* Lesson 13 - Arab Songs (Abdel Halim)
- Week 15:* Lesson 14 - Arab Songs – (Majda AlRumi)
- Week 16:* Lesson 15 - Arab Songs – (Fayrouz)
- Week 17:* General Revision + Final Exam