Western Kentucky University  
Potter College of Arts & Letters  
Department of Modern Languages

ARBC 201: Intermediate Arabic I  
Fall 2015 Syllabus

Instructor:  
David DiMeo, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours:  M/W/F – 3:00-4:00 PM; Tu – 2:30-3:30 PM  
276 Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center  
Office Phone: 745-6408

Course Meeting Time & Location:  
M, W, F – 1:50-2:45 PM  FAC 264

Essential Information:  
For this course, you will need:  
- The textbook, *Introduction to Spoken Arabic Part I*, by Shukri Abed, Yale University Press, 2011 (with DVD). Note: the DVD is absolutely essential for this course. You cannot use the book without it.  
- to register for a free account on Quizlet.com. Then join the class ARBC 201 on Quizlet. You will have graded requirements automatically tracked on Quizlet. For instructions, see “Required Texts” below.  
- Each weekly schedule, plus the unit packets for each unit are on Blackboard. All required information, including grades will be put out through Blackboard. See Blackboard Information below “Required Texts” for more info.  
- This syllabus

Course Description:  
- Expansion of communication skills in increasingly complex and varied situations. Emphasis on conversational speaking, presentational writing and speaking, and understanding culturally specific texts and media. A continuation of the study of the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), with a stress on cultivating speaking skills along with furthering developing skills in writing, reading, and listening. The goal of third semester Arabic is to continue to build upon the knowledge of Arabic that was established during ARBC101 – ARBC 102 while continuing to develop proficiency in grammar and providing a forum to practice and use that knowledge.  
- This course and the selected texts address all five communication modes (reading, presentational speaking, listening, interpersonal communication and writing.) We will also work on the expansion of communication skills in increasingly complex and varied situations, with emphasis on conversational speaking, presentational writing and speaking, and understanding culturally specific texts and media.
Course Prerequisites:
ARBC102: Elementary Arabic II – or – two years of high school Arabic, or the equivalent.

General Education Requirement: This course fulfills the following Category A II General Education Goals for students under the “Old General Education”: A student completing the general education program at WKU will have:

- **Competence in a language other than the native language:**
  - demonstrates basic facility of the vocabulary and grammar of a second language;
  - demonstrates basic communication skills in a second language appropriate to the level of the course in the following areas: speaking, listening, reading, writing, and vocabulary.

- **An appreciation of the complexity and variety in the world’s cultures:**
  - is to communicate at the appropriate level with people of other cultural backgrounds from around the world.
  - demonstrates the contributions of the various world cultures to humanity and identifies the ways in which these cultures are interrelated and interdependent;
  - identifies differences and similarities among the world’s cultural traditions and social organizations.

Department Mission: Through coursework, experience abroad, and other cultural encounters, the Department of Modern Languages cultivates communicative skills and cultural awareness that prepare students at Western Kentucky University to be more knowledgeable and sensitive citizens of the local, regional, and global communities. The Department's purpose is to deliver high-quality language instruction based on nationally-recognized standards, and to contribute actively to cross-disciplinary international initiatives on campus. Our programs are designed to graduate majors and minors whose language skills provide them with enhanced opportunities for careers at the regional, national, and international levels and/or preparation for advanced study in language, literature, and culture.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The Targeted Proficiency Level for this course is Intermediate Low. Upon completion of ARBC201, the student will be able to:

- understand most ideas about familiar topics (such as: self, family, friends, hobbies, professions, daily activities) expressed in sentences, and series of connected sentences frequently used expressions.
- understand the main idea and supporting details in short conversations, messages and announcements.
- understand most ideas from simple texts that contain familiar vocabulary.
- exchange information about familiar tasks, topics, and activities.
- handle social interactions using sentences and series of sentences, initiate and close conversations using simple questions.
- write descriptions and short messages to request or provide information on familiar topics using complete sentences.
Required Texts:
*Introduction to Spoken Arabic* by Shukri Abed, Yale University Press, 2011 (with DVD). Note: the DVD is absolutely essential for this course. You cannot use the book without it.

Quizlet.com: Sign up for a free account as follows:
- go to [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)
- create an account following the instructions at [https://quizlet.com/help/how-do-i-sign-up-for-quizlet](https://quizlet.com/help/how-do-i-sign-up-for-quizlet)
  - your account must be your first initial and last name (e.g. alincoln, gwashington)
  - you can add an image to your account; it should be your dog.
  - if you don’t have a dog, you really need to get one
- click on this link to join the class: [https://quizlet.com/join/uNuHavA7c](https://quizlet.com/join/uNuHavA7c)
  or search on Quizlet for DaoudF, find ARBC301 and join that way.

Blackboard Information:
We will put out a lot of information on Blackboard. You should check it daily. You will find on the Blackboard site:
- The weekly schedule for the upcoming week
- The unit packets you will need for each unit. These supplement the book
- Many Blackboard assignments that must be submitted directly through Blackboard
- Your current grades

You will be required to record a number of assignments onto Blackboard, and to listen to files and video from there. These can be done either by recording an mp3 file and attaching it to the assignment, or using the Tegrity section on Blackboard (look for the Tegrity Campus tab on the right side). Please note “it doesn’t work on my computer is not a valid excuse.” If you have one of the two main types of computers (PC or Mac) these functions all work. If you have problems, it is most likely a browser issue. Ensure you have tried all browsers first. Also ensure you have looked very closely at your screen for a pop-up asking you to “allow” the program. This has been the cause of over 90% of problems so far.

Course Format: Primarily class discussion and interaction with some lecture and lab practice. The focus will be on practice in speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through short exercises.

Grading Profile:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests  (5)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Exams  (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Exercises</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:
- A= 90 - 100%; B= 80 - 89%; C= 70 - 79%; D= 60 - 69%; & F= below 60%

Grading Policies:
• **Attendance.** Attendance is **Mandatory** for every class. This policy is for your benefit. Once you start missing classes, it becomes very difficult to catch up. Experience has shown that nearly all students who have struggled in this course in the past have done so because of excessive absences and the resulting falling behind. Only valid, documented excuses are allowed. This means you must have a written excusal from a doctor, coach, university official, etc. Only **TWO undocumented excuses are allowed, after which you will receive a zero grade for daily participation and not be allowed to make up any missed tests or assignments. Your overall course average will also be reduced by 2% at the end of the semester for each unexcused absence.** Students with excessive absences (excused or unexcused) will be invited to withdraw prior to the withdrawal date. **Your attendance grade is based on how much of the class you are present for. If you arrive late, leave early, or leave the room for any reason, your attendance grade will be reduced.**

• **Unit Tests:** Each unit will have a listening/reading comprehension test based on listening or reading passages similar to those found in the video segments. Tests may include some writing items to evaluate writing proficiency. Only students with valid documented absences may retake **one test during the entire semester.** The make-up test has to be taken no later than one week from the student’s resumption of attendance.

• **Oral Exams and Exercises:** This course focuses on listening and speaking proficiency, and as such, oral examinations are important for guiding your preparation, giving feedback, honing and assessing your own skills. We will have two types of oral evaluations – Oral Exams are in person, one-on-one speaking evaluations; Oral Exercises consist of you recording yourself narrating a task. Most are in the book, at the end of each chapter. For these, you can use notes or an outline, but not read off a script (which will be very obvious when listening to the recording). Oral Exercises will be submitted in mp3 on Blackboard.

• **Proficiency Testing:** WKU has a proficiency-oriented language program. This means developing your ability to perform real-world tasks, not tied to any textbook or curriculum. Private employers and the US Government are interested in proficiency in hiring. We will start preparing this semester for the test you will be taking at the end of ARBC 202; a standardized Arabic proficiency test developed by the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Think of this as an ACT or SAT for languages – universally recognized, universally accepted. This semester, you will take a modified proficiency test with similar items to the ACTFL test. This will count for 10% of your grade in ARBC 202, but more importantly, will give you a recognized credential you can add to any resume. Your instructors will be talking to you in more detail about proficiency levels and testing during the semester.

• **Vocabulary Quizzes:** This course is not focused on vocabulary acquisition in isolation, but some new vocabulary is needed to understand the listening and reading passages. For each unit, there will be a quiz at the beginning of the unit on the new vocabulary given for each chapter.

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or an outline, but not read off a script (which will be very obvious when listening to the recording). Oral Exercises will be submitted in mp3 on Blackboard.

- **Blackboard Assignments:** A large number of the assignments for this course are done on Blackboard. These are automatically added into your grade totals on Blackboard. The weekly schedules tell you which exercises are on Blackboard and you can also find them by looking under the appropriate unit content folder. Note: These are automatically set to mark you as late if they are not submitted by class start time on the due date. Some will lock you out and you cannot finish late.

- **Written Homework:** Due at the start of the class indicated on schedule (i.e. 1:50 PM). Half credit is turned in by midnight on the same day. Zero credit after that. Homework may be required to be written for turn-in, submitted via email or posted on Blackboard. Writing proficiency is also an important skill for your success in advanced Arabic electives. Written homework exercises will be announced in class, on Blackboard and on the detailed weekly schedules. Written homework generally consists of answering comprehension questions about the video segments or writing short expositions about yourself, based on the themes in each chapter.

**Classroom Policies:**

- Attitude is the most important factor in becoming proficient in Arabic. Only a student who has genuine interest in the language, actively seeks opportunities to use the language, and is willing to make mistakes will gain real proficiency. Similarly, in Arab culture, respect and personal relationships are paramount. The policies below are all designed to maintain the positive, respectful and engaged environment you need to succeed.

- Turn cell phones off or to silent prior to entering the classroom. Absolutely no texting is allowed in class. Arab culture places overwhelming importance on personal relationships and respect. “Multi-tasking” while conversing with someone would be so insulting as to negate any skill you display in the language.

- Laptops will not be used during the assigned class time, except as directed by the instructor.

- **Academic Integrity Statement** – excerpt from WKU’s Code of Student Conduct:
  “Dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, misrepresenting of oneself or an organization, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, or omitting relevant or necessary information to gain a benefit, to injure, or to defraud is prohibited.” Dishonesty of any kind is not acceptable in this course.

- **Disability Access Statement:**
  “Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Downing University Center, A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodation directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.”

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**Course Schedule.**

(A detailed, day-by-day schedule for each unit will be posted on Blackboard before each unit)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Unit/Book Chapter</th>
<th>Graded Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Aug – 16 Sep</td>
<td>B1-Introducing Myself</td>
<td>31 Aug, 4, 11 Sep – Vocab Quiz</td>
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<td>16 Sep – Unit Test</td>
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<td>18 Sep – 7 Oct</td>
<td>B2 – My Family</td>
<td>18, 23, 28 Sep – Vocab Quiz</td>
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<td>7 Oct – Unit Test</td>
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<td>9 Oct – 19 Oct</td>
<td>B3 – My Relatives</td>
<td>9 Oct – Vocab Quiz</td>
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<td>19 Oct – Unit Test</td>
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<td>23, 28 Oct – Vocab Quiz</td>
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<td>6 Nov – Unit Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Nov – 30 Nov</td>
<td>B5 – My Hobbies</td>
<td>9, 16 Nov – Vocab Quiz</td>
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<td>23 Nov – Unit Test</td>
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<td>30 Nov – Proficiency Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-4 Dec</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>4 Dec – Oral Exam</td>
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FINAL EXAM – TBA (According to University Final Exam Schedule)