Western Kentucky University  
Potter College of Arts & Letters  
Department of Modern Languages  
ARBC 202: Intermediate Arabic I  
Spring 2015 Syllabus

Instructor:  
David DiMeo, Ph.D.  
david.dimeo@wku.edu  
Office Hours:  M/W - 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  254

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 201 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:  
ARBC 201: Intermediate Arabic I – or – three years of high school Arabic, or the equivalent.

General Education Requirement:  This course fulfills the following Category A II General Education Goals: 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/Mid. Upon completion of ARBC202, the student will be able to:

- understand most ideas about familiar topics (such as: self, family, friends, hobbies, professions, daily activities; errands, university life, house, weekly and yearly schedules, countries) expressed in sentences, and series of connected sentences
- understand the main idea and supporting details in short conversations, messages and announcements encompassing the subjects above.
- 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.

**Proficiency Goals and Self-Assessment:**
The focus of the course, like all Arabic courses in this department, is on proficiency (that is, what can you do with the language). For example, “I can describe my daily activities” is a statement of your proficiency; “I know all three cases of nouns” is not. In your future careers, you will be asked what you can do with the language, not how much you know about grammar. In this regard, throughout the course, you will be asked to assess your own proficiency using a guided system of “I can…” statements, and to develop, with instructor help, goals and strategies to improve in each area. You will not be graded on how much you report you can do on these statements, but on how seriously you participate in the goal setting/assessment process. Some of the benefits of this ongoing proficiency assessment are:

- to be able to describe your language skills at any time in terms that potential employers, educational institutions and organizations understand;
- to have a continuous awareness of what you can do and where you want to improve;
- to break language learning into small, reasonable chunks in which you can measure progress;
- to take charge of your own leaning and pace yourself with reasonable, achievable goals.

**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.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests (6)</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 Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficiency Testing</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></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.

- **Withdrawal Dates:**
  - 2 Feb --Last day to drop without a grade or charge
  - 8 Feb --Last day to receive a 50% refund
  - 15 Feb --Last day to receive any refund
  - 20 Mar --Last day to drop with a “W”

- **Class Participation:** Attendance and participation are not the same thing. The daily participation grade (0-10 points) is an assessment of the quality of student interaction and preparation. To receive full credit, students must arrive on time and speak in Arabic. Read the descriptions of the participation grades below to ensure you understand what is expected. Points will be deducted for late arrival. The participation grade descriptions are:
9-10: Exceeds the standard: Helps facilitate classroom activity. Demonstrates engaged, active learning throughout the class period. Makes consistently strong contributions to the classroom activity. Answers questions, participates in group work. Speaks up in class.

8: Meets the standard: Participates in a generally constructive way. Demonstrates engaged, active learning through part of the class period. Makes strong contributions to the classroom activity. Speaks in class and answers questions.

7: Approaches the standard: Has little negative or positive effect on the class and its progress. May be grappling with the ideas addressed in class but shows little evidence of learning. Prepared, but makes little contribution to the classroom activity. Tries to interact in Arabic, but occasionally reverts to English. (Max for late to class).

5-6: Below the standard: Required work or preparation is incomplete. Does not speak or answer questions.

1-4: Fails to meet the standard, misses more than half of class, sleeps, refuses to participate, or is disruptive. Silent in class.

0: Cell phone visible or heard during class. Texting, using phone on lap during class. Cell phone seen or heard in any way during class time.

- **Unit/Final Tests:** These are comprehensive tests at the end of each textbook chapter and at the end of the course that will test mastery of grammar and vocabulary in context. Tests will consist of a reading and listening passage, written vocabulary and grammar questions and short written items. 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. Vacation plans are not accommodated. Students who arrive late are not allowed additional time, nor are listening sections repeated. Cell phones and PDA’s are to be turned off (not silenced) and placed out of view, along with any notes. Students who leave the classroom during exam periods may not return.

- **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. To this end, you will be taking 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 will count for 10% of your grade, 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.

- **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.
• **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 1:50 on the due date (class start time). 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.

• **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.

• 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.”

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</th>
<th>Graded Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 Jan -30 Jan</td>
<td>Review/Daily Activities</td>
<td>Vocab Quiz</td>
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<td>2 Feb – 6 Feb</td>
<td>Daily Activities</td>
<td>Oral Recording</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Feb – 13 Feb</td>
<td>Daily Activities</td>
<td>Unit Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Feb – 20 Feb</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>Vocab Quiz, Oral Recording</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Feb – 27 Feb</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>Unit Test, Oral Exam I</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Mar – 6 Mar</td>
<td>City</td>
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<td>7 Mar – 15 Mar</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Mar – 20 Mar</td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Mar – 27 Mar</td>
<td>Errands</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Mar – 3 Apr</td>
<td>Errands</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Apr – 10 Apr</td>
<td>Errands</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Apr – 17 Apr</td>
<td>University</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Apr – 24 Apr</td>
<td>My House</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Apr – 1 May</td>
<td>Proficiency Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 May – 8 May</td>
<td>My House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15 May</td>
<td>Final Exam -10:30 AM 254 FAC</td>
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Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course, schedule and syllabus.