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

ARBC 201  
INTERMEDIATE ARABIC I  
Spring 2018 Syllabus

Instructor: Dr Samir Mohamed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E-mail: <a href="mailto:samir.mohamed@wku.edu">samir.mohamed@wku.edu</a></th>
<th>Office: FAC 162</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Class Location: Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center 140
M, W, F – 11:30-12:25

Instructor’s Office Hours: TBA

*Note: This document and other class related materials are available at [https://blackboard.wku.edu](https://blackboard.wku.edu).

**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 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.
**Prerequisites:** ARBC 102: Elementary Arabic II – or – two years of high school Arabic, or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

**General Education Requirements:**
Students who have taken at least two credits in a single world language in high school may be considered to have fulfilled the requirement. This applies to all current students. For more details, a website has been developed that includes commonly-asked questions and answers related to this change. If additional questions arise about the provisional change in how students can fulfill the World Language Proficiency requirement, please contact the Academic Advising & Retention Center at academic.advising@wku.edu or by phone at 270-745-5065.

**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: hobbies, home, friends, family, weather) expressed in sentences, and series of connected sentences and 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.
- recognize and understand some basic colloquial expressions.

**Textbooks and Required Materials:**
*Introduction to Spoken Arabic Part I* by Shukri Abed, Yale University Press, 2011 (with DVD or access to videos online). Note: the DVD or video access 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/uNuHayA7c](https://quizlet.com/join/uNuHayA7c)
or search on Quizlet for DaoudF, find ARBC201 and join that way.
Major Course Topics:

- Describing My Self
- Describing My Family
- Describing My Extended Family
- Describing The Arab World
- Discussing Holidays and Celebrations

Description of Course Assignments:

- Vocabulary Quizzes: Will be based on the vocabulary lists on Quizlet. All quizzes are comprehensive! This means you will see words from previous units on each quiz, although the majority will be new words.

- Participation: Regular attendance is necessary for your progress and in maintaining a constructive environment for learning. Without documentation, absences are not excused. These must be both valid and verifiable (i.e.: illness, injury, bereavement, and university-related activities.) Your grade for the class period is based on the time present in class. We do not conduct class in the bathroom or the hallway. University policy also requires any student will excessive absences to be referred to Academic Advising.

- Unit/Final Tests: These are comprehensive tests at the end of each thematic unit and at the end of the course that will test mastery of structures and vocabulary in context. Tests typically will consist of a reading and listening passage, 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.

- Homework: Whether written or on Blackboard, Homework is due at the start of the class indicated on schedule (i.e. 11:30 AM). For every day after that (including non-class days), it is -10%, down to a minimum of 10% (since every assignment still has some value even very late). So a ten point writing assignment due on 1 Feb would be worth a maximum of 9 points on 2 Feb; 8 points on 3 Feb; etc.

- 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.

- Oral Exams: These will be face to face interviews with the instructor, of approximately 5-10 minutes in length. You will be asked to answer questions based on the theme topics for the course. You will be graded on your proficiency, as well as pronunciation, correctness and fluency.
Course Grading and Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>% Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests (5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Exams (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocab Quizzes (17)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The following represents the grade equivalent for accumulated points:

A = (90-100%)
B = (80-89%)
C = (70-79%)
D = (60-69%)
F = (<60%)

Attendance and Participation Policy:

- Turn to silent prior to entering the classroom. We will use them for activities in class, like Kahoot. If someone touches their phone before then, however, then no Kahoot for the class. 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.

- Participation: Regular attendance is necessary for your progress and in maintaining a constructive environment for learning. Without documentation, absences are not excused. These must be both valid and verifiable (i.e.: illness, injury, bereavement, and university-related activities.) Your grade for the class period is based on the time present in class. We do not conduct class in the bathroom or the hallway. University policy also requires any student will excessive absences to be referred to Academic Advising.

- Withdrawal Dates:
  Jan 30 – Last day to withdraw without grade; last day for 100% refund
  Feb 5 – Last day to receive 50% refund
  Feb 12 – Last day to receive any refund
  Mar 10 – Last day to drop class with a W

- 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.

- Laptops will not be used during the assigned class time, except as directed by the instructor.
**Student Disability Services:** In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.3030 V/TTY] or email at sarc@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

**Statement of Diversity:** We believe that diversity issues are of major import to student and school success. We fundamentally believe in and support the value of heterogeneous groups and the richness of benefits when students are involved with diverse populations, settings, and opinions. This course is designed on the basic assumption that learning is something we all actively engage in by choice and personal commitment. The format of this class will be a community of scholars, each with their rights and responsibilities of membership. We will not tolerate immoral, illegal, or unethical behavior or communication from one another, and we will respect one another’s rights to differing opinions.

**Plagiarism:** To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism. Students who commit plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course and may be subject to dismissal from the program. Student work may be subject to review and checks using plagiarism detection software.

**Sexual Misconduct/Assault** Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE RELATED TO EDUCATION PREPARATION**
(EPSB Program Level Requirements)

Course Required P-12 Classroom Observation or Clinical Experiences: N/A

Course Assignments and Experiences Related to:

- The Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS): N/A
- The Kentucky P-12 Curriculum Framework and P-12 Assessment System to Guide Instruction: N/A
- Candidates Using the KAS Framework in Lesson Planning: N/A
- Candidates Using Formative and Summative Assessments Related to Kentucky P-12 Curriculum Framework: N/A

Course Assignments Serving as an Education Preparation Program “Key Assessment”: N/A

Course Experiences and Assessments Addressing Learned Society (SPA) Standards:

The table below refers to the ACTFL Program Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language Teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 ACTFL Program Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language Teachers</th>
<th>Course Activities/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard 1: Language proficiency: Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 2: Cultures, Linguistics, Literatures, and Concepts from Other Disciplines</td>
<td>6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3: Language Acquisition Theories and Knowledge of Students and Their Needs</td>
<td>5, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 4: Integration of Standards in Planning, Classroom Practice, and Use of Instructional Resources</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 5: Assessment of Languages and Cultures – Impact on Student Learning</td>
<td>5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 6: Professional Development, Advocacy, and Ethics</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</td>
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1. Final Exam – interpretational reading and listening passages; presentational writing sections
2. Unit Exams – interpretational reading and listening passages; presentational writing sections
3. Oral Exam – interpersonal speaking
4. In class oral speaking activities – presentational speaking
5. Oral (Recording) Exercises – presentational speaking
6. Writing Assignments – presentational writing
7. Cultural videos and readings
**Course Schedule:** Refer to the detailed schedule for each week on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Major Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Jan – 15 Feb</td>
<td>B1 - My Life</td>
<td>15 Feb – Unit Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Feb -6 Mar</td>
<td>B2 – My Family</td>
<td>6 Mar – Unit Test</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31 Mar – Unit Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Apr – 12 Apr</td>
<td>B4 – Arab World</td>
<td>12 Apr – Unit Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Apr – 24 Apr</td>
<td>B5 – Hobbies/Holidays</td>
<td>24 Apr – Unit Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Apr -5 May</td>
<td>The Structure of Arabic</td>
<td>3 May – Oral Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINAL EXAM – Tuesday, May 9, 10:30 AM