

University of Southern California
Spring 2013
Media Arabic
Course Objectives & requirements

Instructor: Suzan Wali
Office: THH 499
Time: 12:00- 12:50 AM
Days: MTuWThF
Classroom: VKC202
Office hours: 01:00 – 01:50 pm Tuesdays or by appointment
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CORE TEXTBOOK

1. Elgibali & Korica, Media Arabic.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Selections from Arabic press to be distributed in class.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

This course is specifically designed for Flagship students. It assumes that students have a solid background of 1-2 years of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

Media Arabic introduces the language of print and Internet news media to students of Arabic seeking to reach the Advanced level. It makes it possible for these students to master core vocabulary and structures typical of front- page news stories. The course enables students to read extended texts with greater accuracy at advanced level by focusing on meaning and language forms. The course activities include pre-reading and listening discussions as well as extensive practice on skimming, vocabulary in context and organizing information.

In order to encourage the development of familiarity with the Arabic Media, homework assignments will frequently be to choose and discuss current events, in addition to more traditional written drills.

The Media Arabic course is five hours a week. During the course, we will concentrate on authentic materials that you will find in Arabic Media. Some of the activities are to be done by students working individually, others by students working in pairs or small groups, still others by the instructor and the whole class.

Approach

Both the developing skills approach and the collaborative approach are adopted in this class. The developing-skills approach aims at building and scaffolding students' awareness of language skills, and tries to enhance students' performance gradually by taking them step by step from more controlled activities to less controlled ones. The collaborative approach is also known as the communicative approach. This approach motivates positive interdependence, face to face interactive, individual accountability, interpersonal and small group work, and finally reflection on what the group has achieved and identifying the points they need to improve.

This class is a group effort! We can make much more progress as a class than as individuals by creating an Arabic-speaking community of which you will be a fully participating member. We will continue to work in small groups in class, and you are encouraged to continue to do so outside of class as well.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Reading: Students should be able to fully understand the news of the main four topics we are going to discuss in this course. One of the objects is to have students think about the topic, predict the content of the news they will be reading, and recall prior knowledge about the theme, which will help them assimilate the new information they encounter in the course. Another object is to raise the students' awareness of how sentences are joined to make paragraphs, how paragraphs are organized and how this organization is indicated in the article

Listening: At the end of the course, students should have vastly improved their abilities. They should be able to pick up the key words of the three units we will cover in the course and to understand the main pieces of news of the current events at the Arabic news channels.

Writing: students should be able to imitate the language and the style of the Arabic Media writings. At the end of the course, students should be able to produce the language of the print and to organize it in the same way they would learn to read it.

Speaking: Students should feel comfort and confidence talking about current events and discussing different topics that will be covered in class. Students should produce the vocabulary they study and use it in different occasions.

EXPECTATIONS

Homework:

Students should come to class every day fully prepared and having carefully completed all homework assignments. Students are expected to keep all handouts and organize them so that they can use them again in the future. Remember that your homework is an important part of your grade. Homework assignments which are turned in or send late will be corrected but not

graded. Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class unless otherwise announced at the beginning of class. Receiving written assignments through e-mail will not be accepted.

It is important to follow up on your instructor's comments on your homework, and it is your responsibility to come to office hours or make an appointment to see your instructor if you need additional help, which we are happy to offer.

Homework assignments will include writing, speaking and listening activities.

On each homework assignment, please write your name and a label (such as the book page to which it belongs or a title if it's not from the book). If the homework is audio, you should write the page number as the subject. Homework assignments will be rated on a scale of 1 to 3 (3= excellent; 2= average; 1= poor or sloppy work). For full credit (3) on homework it must be written out or recorded completely and it should reflect your best effort.

You should expect 10 hours per week of homework for this course. It is typical for students to spend 2 to hours daily, 5 days a week on their work for this course.

Remember to **study out loud**. The only way to train your brain and your mouth to speak this language is by doing. We will continue to work on developing reading skills and strategies this semester. **Guessing skills** remain important. Try to use the context to guess words before looking them up. For every word you can guess, you improve your vocabulary retention too.

Preparation: Students are expected to come to class fully prepared, as the class considers the student as the center of the learning process, you will not achieve the goals of the course if you are not ready to actively participate throughout the course.

Quizzes: There is a quiz after each unit, so we have four quizzes. Each quiz will cover the main vocabulary, structures, expressions and the main ideas we discuss in class.

Project: You have to choose any current event you are interested in and to pick up different articles and pieces of news about it. Also, you are expected to figure out the main vocabulary, expressions and ideas of that topic and to write them down in the same way we have in the book.

Final Examination: The final examination will be comprehensive and will test the reading, writing, and listening skills as well as vocabulary. You will be notified of the time of final exam when the Registrar's Office announces it.

Office Hours (الساعات المكتبية): Office hours will be used regularly for giving students feedback on their progress. Students should also take advantage of open office hours to work on their weak spots or to address any questions or comments they may have about class.

Attendance:

3- You arrive to class on time, are well prepared for the class (homework complete and submitted at the beginning of class), are alert, and participate actively when we are working together as a class.

2- You are present but lacking in one of above criteria.

1- You are present but, for instance, you come 10 minutes late to class, speak English without permission and are not focused on the assigned task during group work.

0- Absent

- All classes are mandatory. If you are absent you will receive a “0” for your daily attendance and participation unless the absence is an excused one.

- Participants have 2 unexcused absences per semester. If you are absent due to illness you will receive a 2 unless you bring a doctor’s note/hospital bill.

- Communicate with your instructor about reasons for your absence from class and do your best to come prepared to the next class.

- It is disruptive to the class when students arrive late, so please make your best effort to be on time. **If you are late, the most you can earn for that day’s class participation grade is a “2”.** If you are 10 or more minutes late the most you can earn for that day’s class participation grade is a “1”.

It is the student’s responsibility to check his/her participation and homework grades after each quiz.

الدرجات توزيع

1) Attendance and participation	15%
2) Homework	20%
3) Four quizzes	40%
4) Project	10%
5) Final	15%

- Plagiarism Policy

Students are expected to uphold USC’s academic integrity standards. Plagiarism—roughly defined as appropriating another person’s ideas, arguments, or wording and claiming them as one’s own—will be treated as a serious offense and will be reported to the appropriate university authorities. Students who base their essays or arguments on someone else’s work should make

sure to cite that source properly and acknowledge their use of it. Those who are uncertain about how to do this are strongly encouraged to ask for help from the professor and review USC's "Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism" on-line.

- Disability policy

Any student requesting accommodations based on disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP offices are located in STU 301, and are open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Their phone number is (213) 740-0776.