

University of Southern California  
Spring 2013  
MDES 222: Arabic III  
Course Objectives & requirements

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Classroom: THH107  
Time: 9:00 – 9:50  
Days: MTWTHF  
Office Hours: 1:00- 1:50 on Tuesdays or by appointment

**Course Materials:**

- 1- *Ahlan Wa Sahlan*, Part 1, Second Edition by Mahdi Alosch
- 2- *The Hans-Wehr dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*.
- 3- Audio and video materials included in discs with the textbook
- 4- Some websites including Aswaat Arabiyya  
<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/aswaat/>

**Course Objectives for Arabic 111:**

By the end of this semester you will, إن شاء الله, have reached **Intermediate-Mid** to **Intermediate-High** proficiency in Arabic, which means that you will be able to:

1. Speak about yourself and your environment, initiate and sustain conversations on a number of topics (e.g., family, friends, study, etc.,) and narrate in present, past and future time frames.
2. read texts on familiar topics and understand the main ideas without using the dictionary,
3. comprehend simple Arabic discourse dealing with familiar topics,
4. comprehend and produce basic words and expressions in colloquial Arabic,
5. carry out written transactions connected to daily life and write short letters and essays,
6. be familiar with many aspects of Arab culture, such as social and religious customs and traditions, family life, and education,
7. recognize and use verbs in all major tenses, recognize and form complex sentence structures such as dependent clauses, and recognize and use negation patterns.

In addition you will:

- learn to use an Arabic dictionary, and
- learn to type in Arabic.

## 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.

## Course Language:

By the end of the semester we will be conducting most class activities in Arabic. As we learn more vocabulary and grammar it will be possible to ask and answer most of your questions in Arabic. We will be doing many small-group activities in class; it is extremely important to do these activities without using English. Repeated use of English in class during class activities will result in a lower participation grade for the class.

## Course Requirements and Grading:

### 1. Attendance and Participation (15%)

### الحضور إلى الصف والمشاركة

You must attend classes regularly and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. This means listening to the DVDs, learning new vocabulary, and reading the grammar explanations in the book before coming to class so that class time could be devoted to activating the new materials. You are allowed **three** unexcused absences throughout the semester. Beyond this allowed limit, there will be **one percentage point deduction from your final grade for every unexcused absence**. An excused absence means a written note from the appropriate office (doctor, coach, dean) justifying the absence. Please inform us of absence as soon as possible before--not after--the class you will miss.

### 2. Homework Assignments (25%)

### الواجبات

there will be daily written assignments. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the day for which it is assigned. **Late homework assignments will be corrected but will not be given any credit.**

You are encouraged to study and work on homework together, with the stipulation that everyone must submit her/his own individual paper and everyone must have participated equally in doing the work. **Copying someone else's homework is a violation of the USC Plagiarism policy.**

Please hand in homework on a separate sheet of paper. Xeroxes from the book will not be accepted. For each assignment **please include the date as well as the lesson, exercise, and page number.**

This semester, daily homework assignments will be rated on a scale from 1 to 3 (**3= excellent/very good, 2= good but not your best effort, 1= poor or sloppy work**). You will be rated on the overall quality of your work, not on the number of correct or incorrect answers. Homework assignments are intended to enhance your learning of the new material. So, spend time on your homework assignments and make sure that what you submit reflects your absolute best.

You should expect 10 hours per week of homework for this course. It is typical for students to spend 2 to 3 hours daily, 7 days a week on their work for this course.

### 3. Homework correction (5%)

تصحيح الواجبات

Mistakes on the homework will not be corrected but will be circled or underlined and marked with a special correction code (included on page 5). When you get back your assignment, you should go over it to correct the mistakes (using a different color ink or pencil) on the original assignment and then resubmit it the next day (ideally). You are supposed to correct your mistakes before starting the new homework, then you need to submit the corrected and the new homework together.

### 6. Periodic Tests (30%)

الامتحانات

There will be **three tests** throughout the semester (50 minutes each).

### 7. Skit and video project (10 %)

الاسكتش والتقديم على الفيديو

You will be asked to do one in-class skit (10 minutes) with a partner OR one video project/presentation to be submitted on USB (10 minutes). You will be graded on the effort and time you put in your project, the amount of vocabulary and grammar you cover, pronunciation, fluency and your creativity. The projects are due:

### 8. Final Examination (15%)

الامتحان النهائي

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

#### • 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.

### **How to prepare for class**

**Listening:** it is essential for you to use the DVDs extensively to listen to vocabulary, text and grammar as part of preparing for class. Listen and repeat as many times as you can.

**Vocabulary:** When preparing new vocabulary for class we expect you to listen to each of the new words on the DVD and pay attention to the context in which the new word is used. Repeat each word several times until you can say it easily. To remember the meaning of the new words it helps to use them in your own sentences and to study in groups. It does not help to write the English word or to use the vocabulary lists in the book to memorize these words. All the vocabulary in this book is recycled constantly throughout the drills, therefore it helps to pay close attention to them as you do them, i.e. make sure that you understand completely all of the sentences in the drills. They are designed not only to help you learn the new vocabulary but to review the old vocabulary as well.

**Grammar:** There will be no grammar explanations given during class time. We expect you to prepare the grammar by actively reading the explanation, memorizing material in charts and preparing drills assigned. One of the best ways to check if you have understood the grammar is to read the examples given and make sure you understand them. If after preparing in this way you still have questions you may ask them before or at the beginning of class.

Class time is short so we need to spend it doing activities that will help you internalize and learn to actively use the vocabulary and grammatical structures we are studying.

### **How to Do Well in this Class:**

**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.

### **What to focus on:**

**Vocabulary:** As we advance towards an intermediate level in Arabic this semester, keeping up with vocabulary will be your most important task. We will work on this both in and outside of class. **Personalize vocabulary** makes words relevant by thinking of what you can say about

yourself with them. This will help you learn faster, and make the words stick.

**Homework:** You will notice that homework this semester will usually consist of drills and you are expected to put **more effort** into each drill: concentrate on what you are doing, and make sure you understand each of the sentences. Homework is your opportunity to review old vocabulary, practice new vocabulary, and try out new structures that we are learning. Remember that you will never be penalized for a mistake that you make when trying something new with Arabic.

Remember to **study out loud**. The only way to train your brain and your mouth to speak this language is by doing. Read the drills aloud as you do the homework. Also, remember to **listen** to the new vocabulary, texts, and conjugation patterns and **repeat** what you hear.

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.

## Correction Code for الواجبات

م = مفردات

Word marked is not appropriate for the context. Use a different word.

ك = كتابة

Word marked is spelled incorrectly or there is a problem with the way some letters within the word are written. Write the word again.

ق = قواعد

Word or phrase marked has a grammar problem such as:

- Gender Agreement.
- Incorrect use of إضافة.
- Incorrect verb conjugation.
- Use of the definite article (ال).

ح = Preposition

A preposition is needed or the preposition used is not the right one.

Sentence marked needs re-writing = 

