



## Western Kentucky University

Potter College of Arts & Letters  
Department of Modern Languages

### **ARBC 302: Advanced Arabic II** **Fall 2015 Syllabus**

#### **Instructor:**

David DiMeo, Ph.D.

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Office Hours:

M/W 3:00-4:00 PM

T/TH 2:30 – 3:30 PM

276 Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center

Office Phone: 745-6408

#### **Course Meeting Time & Location:**

M/W/F 10:20-11:30

T/TH 9:35-10:55

Grice Hall 247

#### **Important Information:**

You will need the textbook (same one as for ARBC 301):

*Introduction to Spoken Standard Arabic, Part II* Shukri Abed, Yale University 2013.  
(it MUST have the DVD)

You must sign up for a free account on *Quizlet.com* (see instructions under ‘Required Texts’ below)

#### **Course Description:**

- A continued expansion of interpersonal communication skills. Emphasis on improved comprehension, mastery of more complex linguistic structures, and speaking and writing on culturally specific texts and media. The goal of sixth semester Arabic is to continue to build upon the knowledge of Arabic that was established during ARBC 201/202/301 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 301: Advanced Arabic II – or – three years of high school Arabic, or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

**General Education Requirement:** This course fulfills the following Category A II General Education Goals from students entering before Fall 2014: 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 Mid. Upon completion of ARBC302, the student will be able to:

- understand most ideas about familiar topics (in addition to topics from ARBC 101-301, religion, traditions, customs, celebrations, teaching, education, careers) expressed in sentences, and series of connected sentences
- understand the main idea, supporting ideas, details and attitudes in conversations of paragraphs, messages and announcements encompassing the subjects above.
- understand most ideas from paragraph length texts that contain familiar vocabulary.
- narrate in past, present and future time frames.
- handle social interactions using sentences and series of sentences, initiate and close conversations using simple questions.
- express and qualify opinions on the topics above
- write descriptions and short messages to request or provide information on familiar topics using complete and connected sentences.

**Required Texts (same as for ARBC 301):**

*Introduction to Spoken Standard Arabic, Part II* Shukri Abed, Yale University 2013. (Must Have the DVD)

*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>  
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>  
or search on Quizlet for DaoudF, find ARBC302 and join that way.

**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.

**Course Methods:** This course is designed to prepare you for higher level electives in Arabic Media, Literature and Civilization, and thus, the focus is on developing proficiency in all language modes to enable you to deal with authentic materials and native speakers with confidence. The course text relies on conversations with native speakers or advanced students (both video passages and transcribed conversations). It does not present grammar drills or vocabulary in isolation. By the end of the course sequence ARBC 301-302, you should feel confident in listening to conversations at normal speed or reading page-length discussions. Thus, the course materials, homework, exercises and tests will all use conversations (written and recorded) at reasonable speed to develop your proficiency and confidence.

**Grading Profile:**

	<u>% Weight</u>
Unit Tests (5)	30%
Oral Exams (2)	10%
Vocab Quizzes (5)	10%
Blackboard Exercises	10%
Homework	10%
Class Attendance/Participation	10%
Final Examination	20%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

**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. During your time in the Arabic program, 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 semester, you will take a modified proficiency test with similar items to the ACTFL test. 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.
- **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.
- **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 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. 10:20 or 9:35 AM). 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.

### **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 learning and pace yourself with reasonable, achievable goals.

### **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.”

### Course Schedule

(Refer to each week’s detailed weekly schedule on Blackboard)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Book Section</u>
15-16 Oct 19-23 Oct	C6: My Study of Arabic	Pages 171-214 Unit Test – 23 Oct
26-30 Oct	C7: Arabs in the U.S.	Pages 217-236 Unit Test – 2 Nov
2-12 Nov	C8: Arabs and the West	Pages 244-278 Oral Exam – 10 Nov Unit Test - 12 Nov
13-20 Nov	C9: Religion and Holy Places	Pages 293-318 Vocab Quiz – 16 Sep Oral Ex – 19 Sep Unit Test – 20 Nov
23-27 Nov 30 Nov-4 Dec	C10: Traditions and Customs	Pages 334-357. Unit Test - 2 Dec Oral Exam – 3 Dec Proficiency Test – 4 Dec
		Final Exam - TBA

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course, schedule and syllabus.*