BEGINNING ARABIC I - ARB10100 02
اللغة العربية ١٠١
Fall 2024 – Hunter College

Ahlan wa sahlan! Welcome to the Arabic program at Hunter College!

It is our pleasure to guide you on an amazing journey of learning one of the world's most important and widely used languages. Arabic is not only a beautiful language but also a key to understanding and learning about the great and diverse Arab civilizations and cultures across time and space.

This course is designed for students who have no previous background in Arabic. If you are a native Arabic speaker, you will not be allowed to remain in this course. If you have studied any Arabic at all prior to this class, you **must** inform your instructor. There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Alexander Elinson

E-Mail: Alexander.elinson72@login.cuny.edu

Office: 1304 Hunter West

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:40 am – 12:40 pm, and by appointment in 1304 HW

Class: M/W/Th 9:30 – 10:20 am in 412 HW

Final Exam: Thursday, December 19 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in 412 HW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will focus on four essential language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students learn Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) (also sometimes called "formal Arabic" or "الفصحى") and some basic phrases in Egyptian Arabic (اللهجة المصرية), Levantine Arabic (اللهجة الشامية), Moroccan Arabic (الدارجة المغربية), and other dialects. Class management will be done in Hunter's Blackboard course management system. The syllabus, class schedules, and materials will be available on our class Blackboard page.

COURSE MATERIALS

1) **Alif Baa, 2nd ed**. by Brustad, Al-Batal, & Al-Tonsi.
- plus the free AV materials: https://alkitaabtextbook.com/alifbaa/2e/

2) ***Al-Kitaab Part I, 2nd ed***. by Brustad, Al-Batal & Al-Tonsi.
- plus the free AV materials: https://alkitaabtextbook.com/part1/2e/

You can buy the books here or elsewhere. My advice is to buy them used.
https://hunter.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#/books/3826780/

Please note that you CANNOT use the 3rd edition of either of these books for this class. We will use Alif Baa 2nd edition for ARB 101, and Al-Kitaab Part 1 2nd edition for ARB 101-102 at least (and there is a chance that you will use Al-Kitaab Part 1 2nd edition for ARB 101 into ARB 202).

Please note that you will be required to bring a physical copy of the book (or a photocopy of the complete chapter that we are working on at that time) to every class. You cannot use electronic devices in class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR *Beginning Arabic 1 (ARB 101)*

By the end of this semester you will, *in-shaa'a-llaah*:

- have mastered the Arabic alphabet and sound system
- be able to distinguish and pronounce all Arabic sounds, and write accurately from dictation
- initiate social interactions, ask for basic information, and be aware of basic cultural aspects of social interaction in the Arab world
- be able to talk about yourself, your education, and your family with native speakers of Arabic
- comprehend simple written texts on familiar topics
- comprehend simple audio/video texts on familiar topics
- be able to compose simple paragraphs about yourself

This semester we begin by learning the alphabet, sound system, and basic greetings, expressions, and classroom vocabulary and continue working towards these goals.

GRADING

Every student starts with a C (75%)

How to get lower than a C:
The only way you to get lower than a C is by being absent and/or late to class.
You are allowed 3 absences without affecting your grade. Beyond that, each absence will lower your overall grade by 1%.
Please note that missing the first day of class counts as 2 absences.
Being late to class counts as a partial absence.

How to get higher than a C:
Regular Assessments (can add up to 15% to your final grade)
Short quizzes at the beginning of most classes. These will not be scheduled/announced, but you

should assume there will be a quiz at the start of class and prepare accordingly. (10%)
Lesson Quizzes (these will be scheduled/announced) (5%)

Homework (can add up to 5% to your final grade)
Submit 1 homework assignment a week for a grade
(I encourage you to do homework every day and use the correction key to check your work. We can look at it together during my office hours, or you can bring it to Arabic peer tutoring on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:45pm)

Final Exam (can add up to 5% to your final grade)
(this includes written final and oral assessment)

Two examples:
Fouad
6 absences (3 free)
Homework 90%
Regular assessments 90%
Final exam 80%

Starting at 75%, this student would earn 4.5% for homework, 13.5% for regular assessments, and 4% for the final exam.

75+4.5+13.5+4 = 97

So, their grade would be: 97 - 3 (absences) = 94 = A

Sally
12 absences (3 free)
Homework 50%
Regular assessments 60%
Final exam 70%

Starting at 75%, this student would earn 2.5% for homework, 9% for regular assessments, and 3.5% for the final

75+2.5+9+3.5 = 90

So their grade would be: 90 - 9 (absences) = 81 = B-

All grades will be posted on Blackboard daily. Please note that these are raw scores and are thus relatively meaningless until the grades are weighed, tallied, and calculated at the end of the semester. That said, it is your responsibility to keep track of your grades on Blackboard. If there is a discrepancy between what is recorded and what should be recorded, bring it to my attention as soon as possible.

For the recording of your grades on Blackboard, please note:

- your attendance grade for every day is the column with that day's date
- your homework grade for each week is marked with the last date of that week and the letters "hw"
- regular assessment grades will be in a column marked "ra" followed by the date
- quiz grades will have an abbreviation such as "q4v," which means the quiz for lesson 4 vocabulary. Quiz grades will be out of 10.

Attendance and tardiness

You are expected to attend class every day. Missing class not only means extra work to catch up on, but it is also unfair to your classmates because you will slow us down.

You are allowed 3 absences without affecting your grade. Beyond that, each absence will lower your overall grade by 1%.

Please note that missing the first day of class counts as 2 absences.

Please note that there are no excused and unexcused absences EXCEPT in the case of Covid. If you test positive for Covid, please provide us with a photo of the positive result.

If you need more than your allotted 3 absences for illnesses or circumstances other than Covid, please reach out to me ASAP.

Students who have 0 absences and latenesses at the end of the semester will have 1% added to their final overall grade.

Make sure you have the phone number and e-mail address of at least two of your classmates so, if you do have to miss a class, you can contact them to find out what you missed. Do not count solely on the weekly syllabus to tell you this as it is subject to change.

If you miss class, homework is still due before the start of class (via email) UNLESS you ask me specifically for an extension.

Class will begin on time. Do your best not to be late for class as it is disruptive and disrespectful to your classmates: Being between 0 and 5 minutes late constitutes 1/4 of an absence (a grade of 3 on Blackboard), between 5 and 15 minutes late, 1/2 of an absence (a grade of 2 on Blackboard), between 15 and 25 minutes 3/4 of an absence (a grade of 1 on Blackboard), and more than 25 minutes 1 absence (a grade of 0 on Blackboard).

Please note that leaving the class without permission during class time will count on Blackboard as a late arrival.

You must bring your book/printed chapter to every class unless told otherwise.

There is no food allowed in the classroom unless you receive permission from me first.

Extra Credit: (up to 2.5% added to your final grade)

There will be ample opportunity for extra credit this semester. Each extra credit assignment will raise your overall grade by 1/2 of a percentage point. To receive extra credit, you must write at least 80 words (بالعربية as much as possible) in response to each event you attend (with the exception of Arabic Hours/peer tutoring).

We will email you about extra credit opportunities.

Please note that extra credit points cannot raise a grade from an A to an A+.

Arabic Hours/peer tutoring:

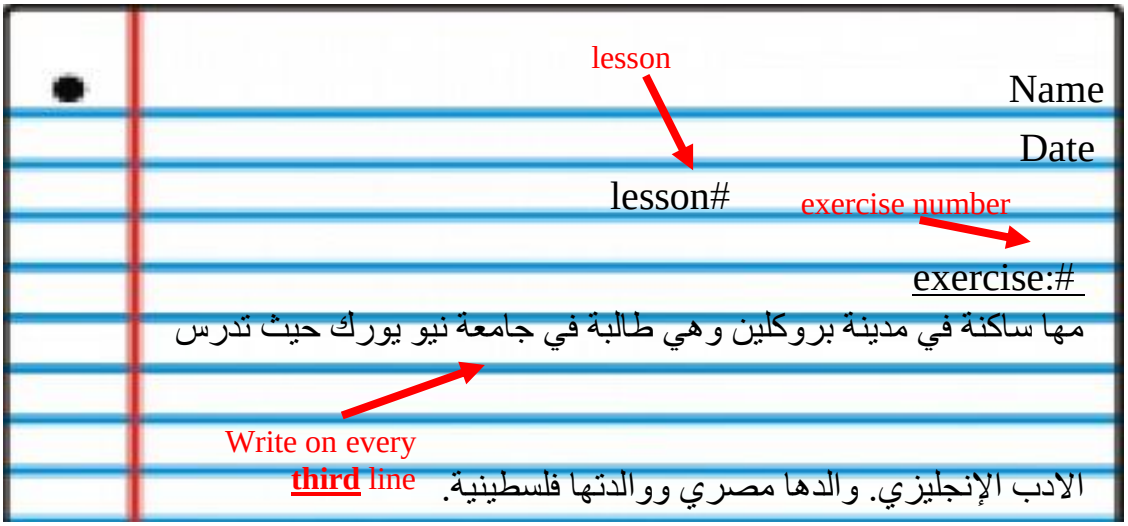
Another opportunity for extra credit is our weekly peer tutoring. These will be held every Wednesday (411 HW) from 2:30 to 3:45. For each session you attend (a full 75 minutes) you will receive 1/4 of a percentage added to your final grade.

Homework can add up to 5% to your final grade

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of homework, which means both written work and other kinds of preparation. The philosophy of the Arabic program at Hunter is that material is rarely introduced "cold" which means that the majority of class time will be devoted to practice and using the language, rather than talking about the language and explaining things. It is thus essential that you come to class prepared. You should expect to spend at least 2 hours on homework for every classroom hour in order to be prepared for class. This means 6 hours/week.

There will be written assignments and/or online assignments assigned for every class, although you are only required to complete one per week to receive full credit. You are expected to turn these assignments in on time. In turn, I will make every effort to return your homework the following class. You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together, **with the stipulation that everyone must submit her/his own individual paper and do his/her own work**. Please do not do your homework in your book. Pages xeroxed out of the book, unless stated otherwise, will not be accepted. For each assignment, please include the date that it is due as well as the lesson, exercise, and page number(s). Please staple your homework in the top right-hand corner. Homework not following these instructions will be penalized.

An example of a correctly formatted homework assignment:



Please note that an incomplete homework assignment will not be considered done, and you will receive a 0 for it.

Homework assignments will be graded on the following scale:

F	= 0 on Blackboard	= 0%

D	= 1 on Blackboard	= 65%
C	= 2 on Blackboard	= 75%
B	= 3 on Blackboard	= 85%
A	= 4 on Blackboard	= 95%

You will be graded on the overall quality of your work, not necessarily on the number of correct or incorrect answers. Neatness and effort count!

If you see a grade of "I" on BB for homework, this means "incomplete." You will not get a grade for that homework.

Submitting homework:
Homework should be submitted **neatly** on my desk **BEFORE** class begins. If you come in after class has begun you should focus on getting into the flow of class as quickly as possible, not gathering up your homework and submitting it. Thus, if you come into class after class has started and you submit your homework while class is in session, the best grade you can receive on that homework is جيد جدا. If, however, you focus on the activities in class and then turn that homework in at the end of class, you can potentially receive a grade of ممتاز.

Note on AI and online translation/translation sites/apps:

The use of generative AI and translation tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, Google Translate etc.), are not permitted in this class, unless we specifically assign you to use it. Therefore, any use of AI or translation tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of the Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity, since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI/translation tools will result in a 0 for the relevant assignment.

Participation and Preparation
Participation/preparation is a key component of this class. Participation is closely related to homework and preparation. If you are not prepared for class, it will be difficult for you to participate in a meaningful way. Good and effective participation also means being a good citizen in class. Part of good participation means knowing when to give others the chance to speak. In this class, we will be doing a lot of group work. Sometimes you will work with students more advanced than you and sometimes you will work with students less advanced. It is important that everyone treats his or her fellow students with respect and patience at all times. **Participation also means regularly checking your e-mail and Blackboard at least once a day for messages regarding Arabic class. I will be using Blackboard to post schedules and for communication. Please make sure you are set up to be able to access Blackboard. This is your responsibility.**

Preparation is obviously related to homework, but it also includes assignments and aspects of the course that are not written. In other words, you must come prepared for class activities (studying vocabulary and grammar and being ready to participate fully). That said, please do not skip class even if you are not fully prepared.

Preparation includes listening to the new vocabulary and expressions. It is essential to remember that preparation for class means more than passively reading assigned grammar explanations and/or new vocabulary and completing homework in a completely mechanical fashion. You are expected to demonstrate that you have made a concerted effort to learn, understand, and are ready to actively use the new material in class. Treat every day as if there is an exam and prepare

accordingly.

In order to participate fully in class, do not:

- eat in class
- look at or use a device with a screen
- leave the class without permission
- chew gum in class
- wear headphones in class
- speak English when I have asked you to speak Arabic.
- be late to class

Please note that the use of devices with screens on them is prohibited during class. You must put away all cell phones and other mobile devices before class starts. Checking a cell phone or other mobile device during class will result in a lowered participation grade for that class.

Regular Assessments & Quizzes

There will be short quizzes at the beginning of most classes to check your preparation. These will not be scheduled/announced, but you should assume there will be a quiz at the start of class and prepare accordingly. These regular assessments can raise your final grade up to 10%.
There will also be lesson quizzes. These will be scheduled/announced and can raise your final grade up to 5%. **There will be no make-up quizzes**. Your lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped.

Final Exam & Oral Interview

This will be a comprehensive exam covering all vocabulary and grammar covered during the semester. There will be listening, reading and writing sections.

The Final Exam date is on Thursday, December 19 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in 412 HW.

Please note that you must take the final examination at the date and time set by the college for this class. No exceptions will be made.

Final oral interviews will be conducted during the last two or three class meetings of the semester (or on Reading Day). These interviews will draw upon the speaking, listening, and cultural skills we have learned and worked on during the semester.

You can raise your final grade up to 5% with the final exam/oral interview.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty.
The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/ or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212- 772- 4857)/TTY (212- 650- 3230

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

1. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
2. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: *https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/ovsa/policies/Sexual-misconduct-8.30.18-PSM-2018-005.pdf*

Please note that the terms of this syllabus are subject to change. If the syllabus is changed, you will be notified via Blackboard as to what changes have been made, and a revised syllabus will be uploaded to Blackboard and clearly marked as such.