

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 Grade:

1. Attendance and Participation (15%)

الحضور الى 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 (18%)

الواجبات

As in Arabic 506, 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 assignments 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 UT Honor Code.

Please hand in homework written out on a separate sheet of paper. Xeroxes from the book will not be accepted. For each assignment **please include the date that it is due 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.

3. Homework correction (7%)

تصحيح الواجبات

Mistakes on the homework will not be corrected but will be circled or underlined and marked with a special correction code. 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 will have a maximum of one week to submit your corrections.

4. Personal Portfolio (10%)

الملف الشخصي

Each student will be asked to keep a personal portfolio for writing and culture. This portfolio is intended to: 1) allow you to engage in creative writing in Arabic using your new vocabulary and structures, and 2) explore and research some **NEW** aspects of Arabic culture that are of interest to you.

You are expected to have a special folder to keep all your portfolio entries. You will submit the entries to your teacher regularly for checking, and then edit them based on the comments provided by your teacher. You should keep all your portfolio entries together in your special folder. We will incorporate working on the portfolio within the weekly syllabus.

Your portfolio is expected to have **10 entries** for the semester: 6 for creative writing, and 4 for culture. Each writing entry must be **100 words at least (typed in Arabic)** and each culture entry must be

250 words at least (typed in English). You will need to learn to use the computer to type your Arabic portfolio entries. We will provide you with information on how to do that and we encourage you to get an early start doing this.

For the writing part you may want to keep a personal journal or you may want to create a fictional شخصية "personality" similar to the Maha and Khaled story and develop it through your writings.

Your grade for the portfolio will be determined based on the extent to which you incorporate new vocabulary and structures into your writing, the extent to which keep revising your writing based on your teacher's feedback, and the creativity you demonstrate in preparing your entries (overall organization, use of images, etc.)

5. The Dardasha Hour (10%)

ساعة الدردشة

This semester we will continue ساعة الدردشة in order to create further opportunities for you to speak Arabic outside class in small groups. You will be asked to attend the *Dardasha* Hour **once a week** at a time that fits within your schedule. Your grade for the Dardasha hour will depend on your attendance and active participation and engagement in the *Dardasha* activities.

6. Periodic Tests (18%)

الامتحانات

There will be **four tests** throughout the semester (40-50 minutes each). These tests will be given on the following dates:

Test #1:	Wednesday, February 14th
Test#2	Wednesday, March 7
Test#3	Wednesday, April 4
Test#4	Wednesday, April 18th

7. Skit and video project (8%)

الاسكتش والتقديم على الفيديو

You will be asked to do one in-class skit (10 minutes) with a partner and one video project/presentation to be submitted on tape (10 minutes). The times for these are:

Skit:	Presented in class Thursday March 1st
Video project:	Submitted on Monday, April 23

8. Final Examination (10%)

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.

9. Final Oral Interview (4%)

المقابلة الشفوية

As part of the final assessment for the course, you will have a 10-15 minute oral interview in Arabic in which you will be asked to talk about aspects of your academic and social life using the vocabulary and structures you've learned throughout the semester. The interview will be conducted after the last day of classes.

All class activities, homework assignments, quizzes and tests are governed by The University of Texas Honor Code. If you have questions regarding any aspect of this code, please come see us.

How to prepare for class

Listening: As in Arabic 506, 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:

As in Arabic 506, **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.** Make 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 only a couple of drills (remember the long list in *Alif Baa!*) The difference will be that we expect you 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.

أهلاً وسهلاً ومرحباً بكم
وفصل دراسي سعيد إن شاء الله