



ARA 1501

Elementary Arabic I

INSTRUCTOR: FATIMA MASOUD
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 OFFICE & HOURS: LART 123
 ARABIC LAB HOURS:

CRN: 12322

TIME: TR 10:30-11:50am

PLACE: UGLC 338

Course Description

Welcome to Elementary Arabic!

This course is an introduction to the Arabic language and the cultures of the Arabic speaking world. Elementary Arabic I is designed to provide students with a solid foundation of the structure, pronunciation and vocabulary of Modern Standard Arabic. Students will learn the Arabic alphabet and numbers, basic Arabic grammar, and basic communicative sentences and phrases. The goal of this course is for students to develop reading, listening, writing and speaking skills in preparation for Elementary Arabic II.

By the end of this course, students will, among other skills, be able to write and read the Arabic alphabet, understand basic grammatical rules of the Arabic language, and communicate basic information at the novice level in Modern Standard Arabic.

A NOTE ABOUT THIS SYLLABUS

This is an interactive PDF syllabus. If you have trouble reading this syllabus for any reason please let me know.

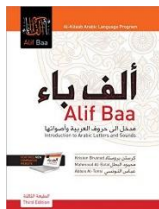
Language & Culture

The Arabic speaking world is large and includes many different cultural practices and behaviors, many of which have had an impact on the way people communicate in Arabic. As students of the Arabic language, it is important to be aware of the ways different cultural practices and behaviors have shaped and been shaped by the Arabic language. This course is designed to provide students with an introductory view of the many different cultural practices of the Arabic speaking world to allow for a richer understanding of the Arabic language.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Communicate with others at the novice level on familiar topics
- Read and write the Arabic alphabet
- Write short sentences
- Read short texts
- Understand basic grammatical rules
- Understand various cultural practices and behaviors of the Arabic speaking world



Required Texts

- Alif Baa: Al-Kitaab Arabic Language Program, Kirsten Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, Abbas Al-Tonsi, 3rd Edition, Georgetown University Press (with DVD and companion website book key). ISBN# 978-1-58901-705-4
- Additional Readings and Worksheets may be posted on Blackboard.



Required Materials

- Access to UTEP email and course Blackboard
- Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Mango Languages [available via UTEP library website for free].

Arabic Lab

The Arabic Lab is located in Liberal Arts Building, Room 220. In the lab you will work with Mango Languages, a language program offered via the UTEP library website. Mango Languages is free to UTEP students.

You are required to attend the Arabic lab 2 hours a week for this course. You will be quizzed on the work you do there. Quizzes will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Assessments

Attendance and Participation	150 points
Quizzes [four quizzes – 50 points each]	200 points
Oral Proficiency Interview	50 points
Test #1	100 points
Test #2	100 points
Lab Quizzes [four quizzes – 25 points each]	100 points
Cumulative Final Exam	150 points
Final Video Project & Presentation	150 points

Grade Distribution

(Students can earn a total of 1000 points for the course):

A	B	C	D	F
1000-900	899-800	799-700	699-600	599 and below

Worksheets on Blackboard

At times, I will provide extra worksheets on Blackboard. You need to print out these worksheets and bring them with you to class.

Assessment Policies

Due Dates: Be mindful of the scheduled due dates for assignments and assessments.

Late Work: All late assignments will be docked 15 points per day they are late. A late work window is open for only two days after the assignment or assessment is due. I will not accept assignments after the late window is closed.

Extension Policy: I do not grant extensions for any assignments unless it is a clearly documented medical emergency. Extensions are not guaranteed and they are granted on a case-by-case basis.

Make-Up Work: I do not offer make-up work or make-up exams. It is your responsibility to alert me if you are unable to meet specific assessment dates or other due dates.

Attendance and Participation

The grade for attendance and participation will be measured by pop quizzes, in-class activities and worksheets, homework assignments and your engagement face-to-face and online via Blackboard.

In-Class Quizzes

There are total of four quizzes in this class offered at different times in the semester. These quizzes will focus on content covered in class and will be a mixture of writing, listening and reading exercises.

Lab Quizzes

You will work on Mango Languages in the Arabic lab. The lab quizzes will be offered through Blackboard and you may complete them in the lab or at home. Quizzes will be open for 1 week before their scheduled due date and you may complete them any time during the week that they are open. Lab Quizzes will be due Sundays by midnight on the week they are assigned.

Lab quizzes will be based on content covered in the lab and some content from Alif Baa.

Tests

There are two tests for this class. Each test will be a mixture of writing, listening and reading questions. Tests will cover all material from the course, including Alif Baa, class content and lab content.

Oral Proficiency Interview

During Weeks 13 & 14, I will conduct short, five minute Oral Proficiency Interviews with each student individually. These interviews will test your knowledge of how to hold a short conversation in Arabic by asking and answering questions.

Final Exam

The final exam is a cumulative, multiple choice test and will cover all the materials from the semester.

Please bring a scantron for the final exam.

Check back with me for the date and time of the final exam.

Final Video Project

In addition to the final exam, you will create a short, 1 to 2 minute video story using Arabic words and phrases that you have learned throughout the semester. We'll begin building skills for the final video project early on in the course.

The theme of your video will be "My Life" and you will tell us about yourself – your family, your friends and things you like or don't like. Alternatively, you may invent a fictional character's life to talk about.

We'll talk more about this assignment through-out the semester.

Final Video Project Presentation

During Week 15, you'll present the final project video you made. Before we watch your video, you'll reflect back on the experiences you've had in the class and in making your video. You'll talk about any challenges, successes or learning moments you encountered along the way. The presentation will be in English.

Typing in Arabic

There are a few ways to type Arabic characters on the computer, but the easiest is to use Arabic Keyboard. Type your words out on the Arabic Keyboard via your browser, then copy and paste into a Word document or a PowerPoint presentation.

Class and University Policies

Classroom Etiquette

- Laptops and tablets are permitted in the classroom to take notes or participate in various language activities using language apps. However, if the use of these devices interrupts the class, I reserve the right to ask you to put your device away or turn it off.
- No cellphone or MP3 player use during class.
- Assessments in this class are not open book. Put away all notes, books, and electronic devices during quizzes and tests.

Arabic Lab Policies

- Follow all lab rules and regulations established by the Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Only Arabic related coursework may be completed in the lab. Any activity unrelated to Arabic course-work may result in suspension of lab privileges.
- No food, drink, chewing gum, or loud conversations in the lab.
- Disruptions or violations of lab rules will be reported to the appropriate University authorities.

Attendance Policy

- You are allowed 3 “freebies” to miss this class, after that you will lose points.
- After 3 absences, your final grade will be docked a full letter grade.
- After 5 absences, you will receive an “F” for the course.
- Missing a scheduled conference with me will constitute as an absence.

- I reserve the right to drop students from this course due to lack of effort.
- I am always available to discuss any concerns you have about your attendance or absences - just come see me during office hours or set up an appointment.

Academic Integrity

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Visit the Office of Dean of Students. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs.

Important: If you are found to be cheating, colluding, plagiarizing, or taking credit for someone else's work in my class you will receive a “0” for the assignment in question and a “0” for the participation points in this course.

Accommodations

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also

encourage you to visit the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in room 106, Union East Building or contact them at 747-5148 or cass@utep.edu. If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met. There are also a range of resources on campus, including the Writing Center, Counseling Center, Military Student Success Center and Academic Advising Center.

Military Students

If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active) please visit the Military Student Success Center. I also recognize the complexities of being a student veteran. If you are a student veteran, please inform me if you need special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran-related developments can complicate your academic life. If you make me aware of a complication, I will do everything I can to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you.

EMAIL POLICY

If you send me an email, always include a greeting, your name, and which class you are in. I check my email daily, but allow a 48 hour period for replies.

Emails sent on weekends will be replied to on the next business day.

Course Calendar

A course calendar for this class is available on Blackboard. There, you will find the due dates for all assignments and readings for this course.

I will give announcements and reminders in class about homework and assignments, but it is your responsibility to keep track of those dates, too.



Important Dates

Important Dates for this Semester	
August 28	First day of class
September 4	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i> - University Closed
September 13	Census Day
November 3	Withdraw course deadline
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday - University Closed
December 7	Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University
December 8	Dead Day
December 11-15	Final Exams Check the UTEP finals week calendar for your course
December 19	Instructor Submits Final Grades

A final note: Information, policies and assignments in this syllabus are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. I will notify you of any updates to this syllabus in writing.