

هلا وسهلا بكم إلى لغتنا الجميلة □

Course description

Arabic 111 is the third course in the Arabic language sequence. It continues to teach Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) which is the formal variety used in textbooks, newspapers, and formal political speeches throughout the Arab world. MSA is very similar to the Arabic used in classical texts such as Islamic texts, literary and historical texts. This course will prepare to continue studying both.

Although the DVD contains segments in the Egyptian colloquial language, we shall not focus on the dialect in detail because MSA is understood throughout the Arab world. Learning to speak, read and write the MSA will make learning any dialect easier.

Class meeting time and room

MWF: 8:30 – 11:45 p.m

TH: 8:30 – 11:45 p.m.

Instructor

Rezat Beka

213 Poulton Hall

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Office Hours

Monday & Thursday 12- 1:00 p.m.

... and by appointment

Two Semester Course Goals:

This course aims to further develop your proficiency and communicative abilities in Modern Standard Arabic in the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing up to the higher- intermediate level by the standards of the ACTFL guidelines. We will work together to enhance your abilities to understand Arabic, to converse on a variety of topics, narrate, discuss and read authentic material in Arabic.

This entails increasing vocabulary, learning more grammatical structures and refining already existing ones, and increasing reading, listening, and writing. You will be exposed to a lot of vocabulary, some of it in the form of synonyms so you need to associate words with each other in order to remember them easily. Use the جذر help you remember the meanings and personalize vocabulary by using them in sentences about you.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- **Speaking:** Learn to talk in more sophisticated Arabic on topics of travelling, politics, literature, media and entertainment.
- **Listening:** Improve your listening working with video material and youtube footage. You will understand the main ideas and some details of more advance discourse on a variety of topics
- **Reading:** Improve your reading by fully comprehending the main text in each unit of the textbook; understand the broad content and some details of more advanced reading materials – such as newspapers, magazines and books – by skimming for main ideas and guessing the meaning of new words based on both context and students’ knowledge or Arabic morphological patterns
- Deepen your grammatical competence easily
- **Writing:** writing complex sentences on familiar topics such as personal information, likes and dislikes, daily routine, etc. As well as writing long compositions on various topics using different modes of writing including description, narration, arguing, and others.

Course Material:

- الكتاب في تعلم العربية الجزء الأول والثاني - لبروستاد والبطل والتونسي
- قاموس هانز فير وتوجد نسخة على الانترنت ejtaal.net/aa/

The textbook will be regularly supplemented with the following:

- Audio and video materials from Arabic Programs, songs,
- Articles from Arabic newspapers and magazines
- Miscellaneous supplementary materials, drills, and assignments to be distributed in class

The audio-visual materials on the DVD are an integral and required part of the course. You will be expected to come prepared with the material. It also helps boost your listening and comprehension of Arabic. Nothing will improve your proficiency in Arabic more than frequent exposure to the spoken language.

Attendance

You are expected to come to every class. A lot of our work is done in groups so we depend on everyone’s presence at every class. One absence may hurt the learning process of the whole group. Therefore, absences are excused only due to documented illness, with a doctor’s note, or with a note from the dean. You will have up to three unexcused absences without penalty. Each unexcused absence thereafter will lower your overall grade by one half percent.

If you miss a class, find out from a classmate what was covered and make it up before the next morning. Alternatively, ask your Teaching Assistant for help.

You are expected to turn off your cell phone and other communication devices in class. If you forget and it goes off, please turn it off immediately, or leave the room, and be sure not to let it happen again.

Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation or any assignment on any given day for the observance of any major religious holidays shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up any work that has been missed for this reason. Students will remain responsible for assigned work. Students should notify the professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of the religious observances that conflict with their classes.

Participation

Remember this class is a group effort! Hence, you are expected to come prepared to class and stay actively involved in all class activities and to work in pairs or in groups. Being engaged in class will help you learn Arabic, internalize the rules and will help others learn with you.

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. Hence, our communication will be strictly in Arabic. You can use English when we discuss grammar to clarify the concepts we are discussing.

As you all know, 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. It is very important that you listen to the lessons to learn the vocabulary and for the first reading of the text.

Note your participation grade is based on meaningful participation and the grade will not suffer when you make mistakes.

How to study Arabic

- It is also advisable that you study in groups. Find those classmates who seem to complement your abilities in studying Arabic and schedule regular study time together.
- Employ technology effectively. Listen to all audio files on your phone, ipod. Watch videos frequently
- All the vocabulary in this book is recycled constantly throughout the drills, therefore it helps to pay close attention to them; i.e. make sure that you understand completely all sentences in a given drill. They are designated not only to help you learn the new vocabulary, but to review the old words as well.

- Prepare the grammar by actively reading the **Arabic examples** given within the English explanation, memorizing material in charts and preparing the assigned drills. If you apply this learning approach and you still have questions, you may ask them before or at the beginning of class.
- **Guessing skills** remain important. Try to use the context to guess words before looking them up in the glossary. For every word you can guess, you improve your vocabulary retention too.
- Review the returned homework, tests and quizzes. Correct the mistakes on them in your study group. You will be surprise how helpful it is to revisit your work.

Homework

You will have homework after each class (except before an exam). It is written with a pencil. Expect to work for several hours to do your homework and prepare for the next class. If you find that you finish faster, I advise you to practice vocabulary.

Homework is due at the beginning of class. Please leave on the desk. **Late Homework is not accepted.** Keeping up with the homework will improve your comprehension and test score. Carelessness regarding your homework will lower your grade.

If you wish to improve your homework grade, you have two days to do the correction on the same page with a colored ink. If the page is filled with mistake, please write the correction on a separate piece of paper and staple to the original. If you fail to submit the correction stapled to the original, you will not receive a grade on that assignment.

I encourage you to work together and collaborate when you study. It is very helpful to test each other on vocabulary, review grammatical rules and create sentences in which to apply them. Nevertheless, once you take the pencil to write your homework, it has to be your own work. **You may not copy your homework from another classmate, use the answer key or ask your relatives to suggest the answers.**

Tests and Quizzes

There will be a test after every chapter; in addition to, two or three short quizzes a week. Usually the quizzes are on the material covered the same week. You will be informed of only one quiz and the others will be unannounced. Ideally, the quiz will take 10 minutes at the beginning of the class. There are no make-up quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Grades

Attendance and Participation	20%
Homework	25%
Tests and Quizzes	30%
Final exam	25%

