



Division: Language Arts
Course name: Arabic I
Section: 3291 / Semester Fall 2016

Instructor Name: Albert Johns

School Website: www.wlac.edu

Class Hours: Monday / Wednesday
6:45 p.m. – 9:20 p.m. Fine Arts 208

Address: 9000 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230

Office Hours: Monday / Wednesday
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and/or by apt.

Instructor E-mail: albertjohns@sbcglobal.net
Location: GC 280Q johnsaj@wla.edu

أهلاً وسهلاً!

Ahlan wa-sahlan!

Welcome!

This class is designed for students with no prior knowledge of Arabic, spoken or written. It teaches Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which is the kind of Arabic used currently in modern books, the news and newspapers, and formal speech throughout the Arab world. Modern Standard Arabic and Classical Arabic (the language of the Quran, classical Islamic texts, and older religious, literary and historical texts) are very similar, and this class will help you continue studying either or both. Colloquial Arabic, which is usually not written, is another variety of Arabic that is used in every day speech.

This course will introduce you simultaneously to formal Arabic along with one variety of spoken Arabic, which is *MaSri* "Egyptian." Our aim here is to prepare you to function in a range of situations and expose you to the varieties of Arabic and the many ways in which these varieties interact in real-life communication. In so doing, we embrace a dynamic view of Arabic reflecting authentic communication with and among native speakers across various contexts and geographical areas in the Arab world. While it is impossible to capture all the nuances of spoken Arabic in a single course, you will be introduced to tools that will enable you to function successfully within this exciting sociolinguistic environment.

Course Description

This course stresses the fundamentals of pronunciation, grammar, practical vocabulary, useful phrases, and the ability to understand, speak, read, and write basic Arabic. It includes an introduction to Arab civilization and culture.

Required Texts: you will need #s 1 and 2 below immediately (# 3 will be our second textbook which we will begin later in the semester).

1. *Alif Baa, An Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds (Third Edition)* by Brustad, Al-Batal & Al-Tonsi. This book comes with a CD (the contents therein are downloadable to your iPod/smart phone for review while running/exercising/driving) and a companion website (for doing homework), and we will be using all three regularly. We will be using this text for the first 10 8 weeks of class.
2. In addition to purchasing the *Alif Baa* book, **you must enroll in your instructor's course at the companion website**. Please refer to instructions at the end of this syllabus and also emailed to you by your instructor. IF you've purchased the bundled book/website version of the textbook (which ought to be the one available at the WLAC book store), you should not need to buy a book key for web site access.
3. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya, Part 1 (Third Edition)* by Brustad, Al-Batal & Al-Tonsi. We will switch to this textbook after finishing *Alif Baa* and will use it for winter and spring quarters.

Course Objectives

Express personal introductions and greetings; name the alphabet and numbers from 0 to 100. Demonstrate use of interrogative forms by answering and asking simple questions in Arabic.

Identify between masculine and feminine adjectives, nouns, and pronouns.

Demonstrate use of long and short vowels, plus letters without vowels (*sukuun*). Demonstrate use of long vowels and diphthongs, *hamza* and three types of long *alif*.

Recognize the definite article, sun and moon letters, *waSla*, *shadda*, nunation, nominal sentences, verbal sentences, subject/predicate.

Use subject/object/possessive pronouns: masculine, feminine, singular, plural (human/non-human).

Apply critical thinking skills to compare cultural differences in the way people relate, speak and communicate.

Recall and demonstrate use of vocabulary.

Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of sentence structures, including compound and complex sentences.

Use all verb forms and tenses correctly and punctuate effectively.

Demonstrate ability to listen, speak, read, and write in simple Arabic.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

At the end of this course a successful student will be able to:

Order food accurately from an Arabic restaurant by reading the menu. We'll accomplish this task via an in-classroom interactive group project.

As a part of our program, other skills learned by the successful student will include:

1. Listen with understanding to conversations.
2. Respond meaningfully in personal and community situations.
3. Speak the target language effectively and articulately in personal, community, and work settings.
4. Read confidently and competently for personal information, professional and academic needs.
5. Write in target language to communicate with purpose, meaning, and grammatical correctness.
6. Develop processes that lead to insight an understanding of the culture.
7. Interact sensitively and respectfully with the cultures mores, beliefs, and traditions in the target language.

Course Requirements and Assignment Guidelines

Teaching and Learning

Our teaching method is based on the understanding that one learns to understand, speak, read and write a language by using it. Learning a language requires a certain amount of exposure, time and effort, and the ability to learn a foreign language is directly related to both the desire to do so and the belief that you can. Speak Arabic as much as possible in and outside of class. Study Arabic every day. Plan to spend, at least, as much time studying Arabic outside of class as you spend in class.

The materials used for this class are designed so that students can do most of the preparation and actual learning of new material outside of class, in order for class time to be spent doing exercises, watching and practicing conversations, and working *with* Arabic (instead of hearing *about* it). Therefore, prepare for active participation in class and don't skip class.

If you already know some spoken Arabic, you will find some parts of the course easy – but remember that Classical and Standard Arabic differ from Colloquial Arabic and you cannot always rely on your knowledge of dialect to help you. Conversely, if you have no previous knowledge of Arabic, do not be discouraged if some of your classmates seem to know the language already. What they likely know is a variety of Colloquial Arabic, similar but not identical to Standard Arabic, and the grammar rules of Standard Arabic are as new to them as they are to you.

Finally, if you know another language that uses the Arabic alphabet, such as Persian or Urdu, you will soon realize that some of the letters have different sounds in Arabic than the ones you are used to; you will need to be especially careful to learn the correct Arabic pronunciation of these letters.

Grade Distribution

3 Periodic Quizzes	15%
Final Exam	15 %
Homework	30%

Preparation, Attendance and Participation	25 %
3 Dictations	5%
Presentation	5%
Cultural Project	5%

Grades will be determined by the quality and completeness of the work submitted and the grades earned on homework assignments, quizzes, dictations, presentation, and exams. Attendance, out of class preparation and participation in class will also be taken into account.

Below you will find more detail on each of the above components of your class grade, as well as a section on final grade calculation and grade policies. Additionally, you will find a section on WLAC policies applicable in the class.

Grade Distribution/Course Requirements in Detail:

A. Periodic Quizzes: (15%)

There will be **three (3) quizzes** over the course of this Fall Semester, worth a total of 15% of your final grade. Students will have up to one hour to finish the quizzes. Students must be present the day of the quiz. However, a make-up or retake of a quiz is possible if: student has a legitimate absence; student wishes to improve grade--make-up must be done at office hours. Specific quiz dates will be included on the daily homework schedules. Here is a tentative schedule for the quizzes in this course (please note that these dates might change slightly but you will be notified in advance of any change):

<i>Approximate Dates</i>	
<i>Quiz # 1</i>	<i>Wed, September 28</i>
<i>Quiz # 2</i>	<i>Wed, October 26</i>
<i>Quiz # 3</i>	<i>Wed, November 30</i>

B. Final Exam: (15%)

The final examination will be comprehensive and will test reading, writing, and listening in addition to vocabulary and grammar. **The Final exam will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14th during your regular class time.**

C. Homework: (30%)

You will be assigned a written homework for most classes. You are encouraged to keep all the homework assignments in a folder for reference and review. Expect to spend about two (2) hours on homework for every hour of class meeting. To prepare for the learning that takes place through practice in class, you will listen, read and study new material at home. This material will not be presented in class. To help you process this material, you will have daily written assignments **due at the beginning of class on the day designated in the schedule.** The amount of effort you put into your at-home preparation and your homework is an important

part of your homework grade. Pay close attention to your instructor's comments on your assignments, and follow up promptly in office hours or after class if you have questions about your homework grade. Homework assignments will be rated on a **scale of 1 to 5 (5 = excellent; 4 = good but not your best effort; 3 = mediocre; 2 = poor; 1 = very poor)**. You will be rated on the overall quality of your work, not merely on the number of correct or incorrect answers. Note that you do not need to have everything 100% correct on your homework in order to get a "5" rating as long as you have made your best effort. **Your lowest three (3) homework ratings will be dropped when calculating your final grade.**

On each homework assignment,

1. write your name **in Arabic** as soon as you are able to do so,
2. write **the homework number** (from the assignment schedule),
3. **staple pages together**, and
4. leave room for feedback from your instructors on the homework. Writing on every other line is a good way to do this.

Failure to do any of the above will lower your homework grade by ½ point.

We expect you to write out your homework assignment **in full sentences**. You will not receive full credit for submitting only the words from a fill-in-the-blank exercise or submitting a Xeroxed copy of the exercise from the book. The aim of the homework exercises is not only to build your vocabulary, but also to recycle and reinforce the vocabulary and grammatical structures that you already know. By writing out the exercise in full, you will notice details of the language (such as spelling and grammatical details) that you may have missed the first time around. Furthermore, you incorporate your new vocabulary in context rather than producing a simple list, and you increase your writing speed. Because a simple list only meets one aim of the exercise, we consider it **incomplete**, and you may lose up to **one point** on your homework grade for this reason.

Late homework will not be accepted/corrected/returned. However, you may bring late HW to office hours for review, and in any case are responsible for all material covered in the HW. If there are exceptional extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from turning in homework on time in person, contact your instructor to discuss the possibility of submitting written homework on time via email (attach a photo of written HW).

Note that the **assigned homework at the companion website is required** homework. Failure to complete the online portion(s) of the homework will result in points being deducted from your homework grade.

The first month of class requires an extra time investment on your part while we are doing the sounds and letters activities. **Expect to spend up to an extra hour per day on homework during this month.** This investment will pay off later; learning to connect the sounds and letters well helps you memorize vocabulary better, avoid spelling problems, and communicate effectively with native speakers with clear pronunciation.

IMPORTANT: Using the answer key of *Alif Baa* or *Al-Kitaab* in doing homework assignments is a violation of the WLAC Honor Code and will be treated accordingly.

D. Preparation, Attendance and Participation: (25%)

Class time will be devoted to **activating** the vocabulary and structures that you have prepared at home through your homework. At least 75% of class time will be spent doing activities in pairs and small groups. Thus, preparation, attendance, and active participation in class are paramount for significant language

proficiency gains and good in-class performance. This part of your grade will be based on a daily rating of up to 5 points. These ratings are based on the following criteria:

- 5- You are **actively** engaged in developing your Arabic proficiency and communicating **in Arabic as much as possible** with your partner/classmates/teachers from the moment you walk into the class until you leave it. Full credit will be given when you
 - i. are ready to begin class on time,
 - ii. are well prepared for the class. This means that you have listened to recorded materials on the companion web site/CD, learned the new vocabulary well enough to be ready to activate it in class without referring to your book, read the grammar explanations carefully and done the homework drills based on these explanations before coming to class,
 - iii. submit fully completed homework at the beginning of class,
 - iv. are alert,
 - v. participate actively when we are working together as a class,
 - vi. make maximum use of pair/group work time by
 - a) understanding the learning objectives of tasks assigned,
 - b) staying focused on those objectives,
 - c) continuing to work with your partner on the task objectives even if you “finish” an assigned task before the allotted time is up (Ask your TA or instructor for additional instructions if you aren’t sure what to do next), and
 - vii. maintain the “Arabic as much as possible” policy.
- 4- You are present but lacking in one of the above criteria for full credit in participation.
- 3- You are present but lacking in two of the criteria.
- 2- You are present but lacking in three of the above criteria.
- 1- You are present but lacking in more than three of the above criteria. For instance, you come late to class, submit incomplete homework, use English to say something that you could say in Arabic and are not focused on the assigned task during group work.
- 0- You are absent or more than 20 minutes late

If you come to class but do not submit homework, the most you can get for your preparation/participation for that day is a **3/5**.

Attendance Policies:

- If you are absent from class you will receive a “0” for that day’s attendance/preparation/participation. Your **lowest 3 grades for attendance/preparation/participation will be dropped when calculating your final grade at the end of the quarter.**
- Please inform your instructor by email of absence as soon as possible *before—not after*—the class you will miss. The absence will not be excused but informing your instructor of an absence helps considerably in planning for daily class activities.

Classroom Conduct Policies:

- Use of cell phones or laptop is not permitted. **Turn your cellphone off completely when in class and put it away in your back-pack.**
- Please do **not chew gum** in class. (For clear pronunciation purposes)
- Food is not permitted during class time (only break time). Drinks in spill-proof mugs and bottles with tops are allowed. (For clear pronunciation purposes)

E. (3) Dictations: (5%)

In addition to regular dictation practices in every class, there will be **three (3) formal Dictations** over the course of this fall semester, worth a total of 5% of your final grade. Students will have up to half hour to finish the dictations. Students must be present the day of the dictation: no make-up will be given. Specific dates will be included on the daily homework schedules. Here is a tentative schedule for the dictations in this course (please note that these dates might change slightly but you will be notified in advance of any change):

<i>Approximate Dates</i>	
<i>Dictation # 1</i>	<i>Wed, September 21</i>
<i>Dictation # 2</i>	<i>Wed, October 19</i>
<i>Dictation # 3</i>	<i>Mon, November 21</i>

E. Presentation: (5%)

There will be an oral presentation in the week of Dec. 5. You can either speak to the class **in Arabic** for 3 minutes on a topic of your choice, or create a dialogue or skit with one of your classmates (for 6 minutes) to present it in class. Guidelines and rubric will be given before the presentation

F. Cultural Project: (5%)

In addition to your language work, you will be assigned to create a Cultural Project written **in English**. The cultural project is your opportunity to engage with Arab culture outside the classroom in order to explore and improve your knowledge of the cultural and social contexts in which Arabic is spoken. More details of this component of the course will be announced in class.

Grading

Grading Scale Final Grade Calculation and Grade Policies

Number	Letter	Number	Letter	Number	Letter	Number	Letter
97 – 100	A+	87 - 89.9	B+	77 – 79.9	C+	67 – 69.9	D+
93 – 96.9	A	83 - 86.9	B	73 – 76.9	C	63 – 66.9	D
90 – 92.9	A-	80 – 82.9	B-	70 – 72.9	C-	60 – 62.9	D-

- Grades on the border between two letter grades (89.5 for instance) may or may not be rounded up to the next higher letter grade, at the instructor's discretion.
- Your final class grade will be based on your final weighted average in the class (including the final exam grade).

College Policies:

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

In accordance with code 9803.28, **academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in this class.** Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. Academic dishonesty of any type, such as cheating or knowingly furnishing false information, by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation.

- **Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment, possible dismissal from the class and disciplinary action from the college. You will not receive credit for any essay missing previous drafts, citations and/or a Works Cited page.**

Student Conduct

According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes for more information.

Recording Devices

State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (WLAC College Catalog).

Campus Resources

IF **you are having problems, don't let them snowball.** Come and talk with me and check out some of the campus resources available to you. You can find valuable campus information by accessing West's College Catalogue. Go to wlaac.edu. Click on Academic Programs, and then click on College Catalogue. Some important campus phone numbers are given below:

Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)

Student Services Building (SSB) 320 | (310) 287-4450.

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4486

Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling, math fundamentals and chemistry knowledge with convenient, self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center. Increase your knowledge and learning success: sign up for tutoring in various college subjects (WLAC College Catalog).

Library Services

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4269 & (310) 287-4486

The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the Library. Web access is available in LIRL as well as meeting rooms. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study (WLAC College Catalog).

Bookstore can be reached by dialing 310-287-4560.

For information about **Academic Counseling** appointments contact 310-287-4257.

Student Health Center can be reached directly via 310-287-4478 for non-emergencies.

In case of a medical emergency: "The student health center asks everyone with serious medical emergencies on campus to call the **Campus Sherriff** at 310-287-4314 in lot 5, for assistance." In addition, you can obtain valuable information on emergency procedures and preparedness by accessing the West homepage and clicking Sherriff/Campus Safety. You can also find emergency preparedness information posted in each classroom.

Or dial 911.

أهلاً وسهلاً في صف اللغة العربية!

ahlan wa-sahlan to Arabic class!



برنامج الكتاب للغة العربية
Al-Kitaab Arabic Language Program

Your instructor, Albert Johns, invites you to enroll in the following course.

Course: Arabic 001

Code: ARK737

Book: Companion Website Access to Alif Baa, Third Edition

Creating a Al-Kitaab Companion Site Account

If you do not have an account, you need to create one. To do so, follow these steps:

1. Go to <http://www.alkitaabtextbook.com> and click **Create an account**.
2. Select a username and password and enter your information, then click **Submit**.

Note: Remember to write down your username and password and be sure to select the correct time zone. Also, please enter a valid e-mail address so we can send you your password if you forget it.

Entering the Book Key and Course Code

Enter the book key and course code to complete the enrollment process. You may already have a book key, or you may need to purchase a book key. Depending on your situation, use one of the procedures below. If you activated the book for a previous course, you can start at step 4 of *I already have a book key* below.

Once you have completed this step, the system lists the course and book on the Student Workstation home page. To enter additional books, enter a book key in the **Enter** field and click **Go**.

Note: Book keys can only be used once. Your book key will become invalid after you use it.

I already have a book key

1. Go to <http://www.alkitaabtextbook.com> and log in.
2. At the top of the page, enter your book key and click **Go**.
3. Click **Confirm** to confirm your registration information. Your book will appear under the **My books** heading.
4. Beside the book listing, enter the course code ARK737 in the **Enter course code** field and click **Go**.
5. If necessary, select a class or section and click **Submit**.

I need to purchase a book key

1. Go to <http://www.alkitaabtextbook.com> and log in.
2. At the top of the page, enter the course code ARK737 and click **Go**.
3. If necessary, select a class or section and click **Submit**. The course and books will appear under the **My classes** heading.
4. Locate the book and click **buy**.
5. Proceed through the purchase process.

Note: If the buy link does not appear in Step 4, contact your instructor for information about obtaining a book key.

Using Al-Kitaab Companion Site

To access your Student Workstation in the future, go to <http://www.alkitaabtextbook.com> and log in. Here, you can open your book, submit activities, view your results, and view your instructor's feedback. If you have any questions, contact Al-Kitaab Companion Site Support at <http://www.alkitaabtextbook.com/support>.

Student Acknowledgment

(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

“I _____, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

Special needs or circumstances:
