

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations/ Yale University
ARBC S110: Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I/ Summer 2022
Yale Summer Session: Session A, May 30 - July 1

Instruction Mode: Online course via zoom

Meetings: M-F 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Instructor: Randa Muhammed

Email: randa.muhammed@yale.edu

Online office hours: Wednesday at 12:30 pm or by appointment over zoom

Instructor Bio

Randa Muhammed is a senior lecturer 1 at Yale University. She completed a BA in Education from South Valley University in Egypt and a master's degree in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language from the American University in Cairo. Since 2012, she has been teaching in several academic institutions in the USA and has taught Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic at all levels.

Communication

For inquiries, please email me at **randa.muhammed@yale.edu**. You can expect to receive a response to your message within **6 hours**, often much sooner. Kindly note that **I do not typically check email during the hours of 8 pm and 8 am on weekdays, and I do not check these at all on the weekends** to devote time to family and rest. Messages received during these times will receive attention once I am back online.

Course description

This course introduces students to the basic rules and principles of Modern Standard Arabic.

To become familiar with Arabic, students will learn the alphabet and sound system, basic vocabulary, simple grammatical rules and structures, and methods of forming sentences which set the foundation to develop the necessary skills required for higher-level courses. Students will be introduced to the major differences between Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA). Finally, the course aims at having students not only use Arabic to express themselves in daily life, but also to develop an understanding of Arab culture through different applications of the language.

Course Objectives

- 1- Distinguish and produce all Arabic sounds as well as being able to write down the letters accurately.
- 2- Practice basic social interactions, exchange basic information, and be aware of essential cultural aspects of social interaction in the Arab world.
- 3- Illustrate an understanding of simple authentic reading texts and audio/video stories on familiar topics.
- 4- Practice speaking in short paragraphs about yourself, family, friends, and the weather.
- 5- Differentiate between sounds and basic grammatical structures in formal and spoken Arabic.
- 6- Demonstrate gradual awareness of some aspects of the Arab culture connected to everyday life, including culturally important expressions used among friends and acquaintances.

Required Texts

1. Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Tūnisī, A. (2014). Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic letters and sounds. 3rd Ed. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
2. Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Tūnisī, A. (2014). Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Part I. 3rd Ed. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

The course covers Alif Baa textbook and the first six units of Al-Kitaab I.

- This course is aided by Canvas, extra material prepared by the instructor will be uploaded there.
- Vocabulary lists are on Quizlet.com: Please join the class: <https://quizlet.com/join/auRe22aTD> or search on Quizlet for Raahmed1, find ARBC S110 to join.

Method of Instruction

This is an online course. Our meetings will be carried out via Zoom five days a week (M, T, W, Th and F) for 2hrs. Course activities should be completed online and submitted to Canvas. Attendance is mandatory M-F. Students are expected to follow a week-by-week schedule as outlined on canvas.

Student Responsibilities and Class Expectations

The following guidelines will create a comfortable and productive learning environment throughout the semester.

You can expect me:

- To start and end class on time.
- To assign homework that adequately covers the material and meets the learning objectives of the course while adhering to the time expectations for a 1 1/2 credit hour course.
- To give exams that accurately reflect the material covered in class and assigned in homework.

I can expect you:

- To come to class on time.
- To be attentive and engaged in class, and to seek help when needed
- To spend an adequate amount of time on the homework, making an effort to solve and understand each problem (expect to spend at least 2 hrs. a day working on the assignments, reading, etc.)

Assignments and Grading

Participation (20%)

Attendance is **Mandatory** in all class sessions. Without documentation, absences are not excused. It is also important to be prepared for class activities. Preparation includes reading the assigned material, bringing questions, and actively participating and engaging in class.

Daily Homework (20%)

It is your responsibility to turn in daily homework on time. Homework must be completed before **8 pm** on the day it is assigned to receive credit and should be submitted to the correct homework dropbox in Canvas. Please make sure to name the document by the homework # and due date and to state this info inside as well when you upload the homework to Canvas. No late work is accepted without a compelling reason. No Homework means no grade. Homework submitted after the assigned date will receive a **50% grade deduction** for each one.

Writing Assignments (20%)

Aiming at developing students' writing skills, students you will be assigned a topic to write on. There will be **4 writing topics** in total in which students utilize the grammar and vocabulary of MSA learned in class. Topics include introducing oneself and studies, talking about family, the weather, and favorite hobbies.

Vocabulary journals (5%)

The vocabulary journal helps students compile and group the vocabulary learned in the course and relate them to their context, lexical and grammatical environment. There are **a total of 6 journals** throughout the course. Each journal should include the vocabulary of each unit learned in class. Please note that the vocabulary journal is not a list of Arabic and English words, rather it shows the words in context with their lexical and grammatical relations. The use of English translation should be reduced to its minimal. You can substitute that by drawings, pictures, antonyms, synonyms, roots, and words in sentences or stories.

Tests (3) (15%)

Students will sit for **three online tests** throughout the semester. A test after each 2 units will be offered. More information about the test structure will be discussed in class.

Oral projects (2) (20%)

Based on what you learn throughout the course, you will create a **3-minute presentation** on the main themes discussed in class. There will be **2 oral presentations**. You are encouraged to use note cards and visual aids, however, I strongly discourage reading your presentation. Criteria for evaluating oral presentation are:

Grammatical accuracy and sentence structure 20%

Vocabulary 20%

Pronunciation and comprehensibility 20%

Content 20%

Audio and visual aids 10%

Finishing on time and answering questions 10%

Total 100%

Points Breakdown and Grading Criteria

Participation:	20%
Daily Homework:	20%
Writing assignments:	20%
Vocabulary journals	5%
Tests (3)	15%
Oral projects (2)	20%

Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
94-100	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60