

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations/ Yale University
ARBC S120E: Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II/ Summer 2024
Yale Summer Session: Session B, July 1 – August 2

Instruction Mode: Online course via zoom

Join URL: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/95846078702>

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

Instructor: Randa Muhammed

Email: randa.muhammed@yale.edu

Online office hours: Wednesday at 1:00 pm or by appointment over zoom
Same link as above

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 aims to take the student up to the intermediate low/mid-level on the ACTFL Arabic language standards. Using authentic and audiovisual material within an integrated learning approach, you will learn to understand and produce texts about yourself, your environment, and daily life topics. As a continuation of ARBC S110E, you will be trained to acquire basic skills of reading, speaking, listening, and writing simple coordinated and subordinate sentence structures. You will learn more aspects of Arab culture with a special focus on Egyptian everyday life. The course depends on gradual, but persistent and committed hard work.

Course Objectives

1. Practice reading long authentic texts related to yourself, your environment, and daily life topics.
2. Practice speaking and writing simple coordinate and subordinate sentence structures.
3. Practice exchanging more detailed information, describing people and things, giving and eliciting information, stating preferences, describing locations, talking about daily activities, etc.
4. Build a lexicon of frequently used vocabulary and expressions related to yourself, your environment, and daily life topics.

5. Demonstrate awareness of some everyday life aspects of Arab culture and compare them to the American culture.

Required Texts

Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Tūnisī, A. (2014). Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Part I. 3rd Ed. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

- This course is aided by Canvas and any extra material prepared by the instructor will be uploaded there.

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, trying 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 sessions. 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. It will be completed on the companion website platform. You will receive an email from Lingco (the website platform) notifying you that you have been added to your class's roster, click on the link in the email, then log in or sign up for a new account. 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 will be assigned a topic to write about in which you will utilize the grammar and vocabulary of MSA learned in class. Topics include describing your best friend and your favorite city, filling out a form, last vacation, someone's daily routine, etc.

Vocabulary journals (10%)

The vocabulary journal helps students compile and group the vocabulary learned in the course and relate them to their context, lexical and grammatical environment. 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 (15%)

Students will sit for **three tests** throughout the semester. More information about the tests' structure will be discussed in class.

Final project (15%)

Based on what you learn throughout the course, you will create a **4–6-minute video** on the main themes discussed in class. Students will upload the video to **Canvas Discussions forum** created for submitting this project. 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	10%
Tests (3)	15%
Final project	15%

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