



**The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Modern Languages**

BEGINNING ARABIC I

ARAB 1441- 002

Spring 2018

Instructor: Najia Alameddin

Faculty Profile: <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/najia-alameddin>

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title: ARAB 1441-001- Beginning Arabic

Office Number: 226 Hammond Hall

Dep't. of Modern Languages: 817-272-3161

Email Address: nea@uta.edu

Office Hours: M/W 3:00-4:00pm & by appoint.

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Mo We Fr 1:00- 1:50pm

Room PH 300

Blackboard: <https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login>

Description of Course Content: This course is the beginning course in Modern standard Arabic (MSA), in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In addition, Students will be introduced to the *shami* dialect as well. Culture mediated through the language is also an integral part of the curriculum. The goal of first-year Arabic is to develop your proficiency while providing you with a context within which to use and practice what you are learning. Besides learning about the language, we will also be exploring various areas of the world where Arabic is spoken. Students will experience Arabic culture to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the relationship between the language and culture, as well as the student's native culture. This course is designed for students who have no previous knowledge of Arabic.

Objectives and learning outcomes:

Developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills at a beginner's level.

READING:

- *Student will be able to read and write the Arabic alphabet and simple sentences.
- *Student will be able to read texts on familiar topics and understand the main ideas.

CONVERSATION

- * Student will be able to introduce him/herself and others using formal greetings and short phrases.
- * Student will be able to communicate with memorized material and create simple sentences, asking questions describing family occupations, place of residence and country of origin and expression of

belongings, days of the week, position words and counting to 10.

WRITING

- * Student will be able to write simple sentences related to basic survival needs such as food, family, interests and studies.
- * Student will write simple nominative sentences, recognize case endings, how to use adjectives, making words plural, possessive endings and idafa constructions.
- * Student will learn to write accurately from dictation.

LISTENING

- * Student will be able to understand many sentences and respond to simple questions.

- ✓ By the end of ARABIC I, students will be able to apply new vocabulary relating to topics such as: *Things around the home, clothes, around town, countryside, parts of the body, etc*), in order to express thoughts, ideas, and opinions in Arabic.

Course Materials to be used:

the Textbook and workbook, Power point presentation and videos (cultural and academic), flash cards and handouts.

- Mastering Arabic 1. (3rd Edition) with 2 audio CDs. Palgrave Macmillan master series. Authors: Jane Wightwick & Mahmoud Gaafar. Textbook can be purchased at UTA bookstore or from Publishers @ www.palgrave.com/masteringarabic
- Mastering Arabic 1 Activity Book. Practice for Beginners 2nd Edition. Jane Wightwick & Mahmoud Gaafar
- Easy Arabic Grammar by Jane Wightwick & Mahmoud Jaafar. Mc Grow Hill. Book can be found @ <http://www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/html/0071462104.html> It can also be found in a pdf format @ <http://www.reshtia.org/library/14.Easy%20Arabic%20Grammar.pdf>
- I will be using and distributing several out-of- textbook material in the form of hand-outs. Students are responsible to save this material for studying and reference. Class activities, quizzes, and tests will include all out-of-textbook material given throughout the semester.

Approach: Student activities are geared toward developing functional abilities to use Arabic accurately and fluently in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This involves intensive classroom interaction and out of class assignments.

Descriptions of major assignments, examinations and Grading:

Participation/skits	15%
Homework	15%
Chapter Tests (2)	20%
Quizzes	20%
Final group skit presentation	5%
Final interview (Oral Exam)	5%
Final written Exam	20%

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Blackboard usage: I will be using BB to post announcements, lesson objectives, and assignments, due dates, project descriptions, audio/video material etc. It is the student's responsibility to regularly visit BB to view posted material.

Utilizing the following online study website: www.palgrave.com/masteringarabic & www.audiostudyplayer.com . Students will have access to those websites via Bb and will get directions for several practice assignments related to each text book unit

Utilizing the following online study website: Quizlet.com. All students are required to create an account in this website in order to practice/study and master vocabulary and expressions learned in class, in a simple flashcard system. The account is free with an optional upgrade for a small fee. Students are NOT required to purchase the upgrade. The website allows students to study, play vocabulary games, drill, and then tests themselves. You will get further details and instructions about this website on the first day of class.

Preparation and Expectations for Out-Of-Class Study: Students are required to prepare for each lesson by reading & listening to the text and dialogue and answering the preliminary questions before the onset of the lesson. This activity is essential to prepare and be ready to actively participate in class. The text will be heard in class once or twice only; therefore, students must have listened to it and read over the new vocabulary, expressions, and idioms ahead of class. The students will show their preparedness through their ready answers, participation, role-playing, and quizzes.

Homework assignments: This out-of-class practice is essential for reinforcement of classroom learning, reading and writing. After each lecture, homework (*wajib*), will be assigned in class and posted on Blackboard (*HOMEWORK FOLDER*) and is due on **Friday** at the beginning of class; simply place it on my desk after you arrive. All exercises, including listening exercises, in a given lesson are automatically due as homework once the lesson has been covered. If you miss a class, it's your responsibility to check the *homework folder* to see what you've missed on that day.

Homework must be double spaced and completed on a blue /green book (a small booklet with a blue or green cover, available at the university book store). Make sure you write your name, date and the homework number. Points will be deducted when submitted work that does not follow any of those guidelines.

You will be graded on the overall quality of your work and on the effort, you put into the homework, and not on the number of correct answers. Late submission (submitted the following Monday) will receive a grade of **50**.

Homework completed on a loose-leaf paper will not be accepted. however, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

skit / Role- play: Each lesson in textbook consists of a short dialogue and conversation practice. Students are required to sketch each lesson upon completion of lesson . Modification and expansion of the dialogues is encouraged but not obligatory.

Written quizzes: Quizzes over vocabulary, assigned readings will be given regularly, and in the form of writing/dictation. I strongly encourage you to come to class on time. Quizzes will begin promptly at the beginning of the class and there will be no make-up quiz opportunities. however, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Chapter tests (2) : You will be tested over material from the textbook, worksheets, and class activities. **All tests are comprehensive.** The dates for the Tests and the Final are indicated in the attached schedule of work. They will be administered during class time, in the classroom. Regular and careful preparation for class is the best way to prepare for the tests and the Final. The policy of the department is no make-up. However, if a student provides proper written documentation for an excused absence (only for serious extenuating circumstances) on the day of a test, a make-up can be arranged for the following day of the test. **Otherwise, missed tests are recorded as a “0”.**

Final Oral Exam (Interview) *The final oral exam* will be in the form of a conversation between instructor and student. The oral evaluation should integrate most of the material covered and should reflect the students’ creative and imaginative abilities. Students will receive a detailed description of nature of interview, expectations, and an evaluation rubric .

Final Group skit:

The skit will be performed in class must be 5 to 7 minutes long. Check Blackboard for rubric and guidelines. Skit presentation will be related to what is covered in class. Pronunciation, fluency, breadth of vocabulary, and appropriate functional usage will be taken into account. The skit or presentation should be designed and acted out by two to four students (one group at a time). The skit/presentation and the oral exam should integrate most of the material covered and should reflect the students’ creative and imaginative abilities. More details will be given in class.

Final Written Exam (written) *The final written exam* is comprehensive in nature.. It includes listening, reading, and writing parts in addition to sections on vocabulary and grammar. If the exam is missed, documentation of an emergency must be submitted to the instructor in order to make it up. **Otherwise, missed final exams are recorded as a “0**

Grading Policy: A student’s performance in this course is not predicated on their command of spoken or written Arabic, as long as a certain minimum level of competency is present, and he or she is able to effectively comprehend and work with the course assignments and produce quality work. In short, there is one grading standard for all students, regardless of cultural or linguistic background. You are graded against yourself and not compared with others. You will be evaluated periodically by reading random selected passages from material in textbook, answering comprehension questions about it, taking short written quizzes, and for active participation in group activities and skits. Class time will be devoted to activating the vocabulary and structures that you have prepared at home through your homework. You should expect to spend the better part of class time doing activities in pairs and small groups. Thus, attendance and active participation in class is essential to your making good language proficiency gains and doing well in the class.

Make-up Exam Policy: NO MAKE-EXAMS except under extraordinary circumstances.

To figure out what you are making in the class: Final grades are calculated by multiplying the grade of each assignment by the percentage points it is worth, and then adding each percentage value for a score out of 100. See categories above. Final Grade Key: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 65-69=D; 0-64=F

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of **9** hours of reading, study, etc. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional **9** hours per week of

their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. To figure out what you are making in the class: Final grades are calculated by multiplying the grade of each assignment by the percentage points it is worth, and then adding each percentage value for a score out of 100. See categories above. Final Grade Key: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 65-69=D; 0-64=F

Student responsibilities:

1. Please turn off all cell phones when entering the classroom.
2. Do not arrive habitually late nor leave habitually early.
3. Have your own class materials with you each day, including the textbook
4. Food are NOT permitted in classroom.

Attendance/ Participation Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required university-wide. Rather, each faculty member or department is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. However numerous studies have shown that there is a significant positive correlation between class attendance and grades. For this reason, and due to the communicative and interactive nature of language learning, I will be taking attendance in this class and will be recorded daily. Failing to attend class will have a direct and detrimental impact on your grade as the lectures are an important part of learning this material.

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Absence and tardiness result in missed instructional time, missed announcements, missed participation opportunities, and a low quiz and test average. You should therefore plan to attend class regularly and to arrive early. Students who miss class are responsible for checking the syllabus and confirming with classmates prior to contacting the instructor regarding missed announcements or material covered in class. Students who arrive late are responsible for reporting their presence to the instructor after class is dismissed. Points may be deducted from the student's grade for habitual tardiness. Whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to make up missed work. The student is also responsible for the material covered in class during lecture. Be sure to get contact information from fellow students so that you can go over the class lecture notes.

For purposes of makeup exams and essays, excused absences include a documented illness or death in the family, brief periods of military service*, university authorized absences*, and religious holy days*. Absences for any other reason, including undocumented illness or the illness of a family member, may not entitle the student to make up missed exams or essays unless you receive prior permission from the instructor, who must adhere to departmental and university guidelines and who may take documentation

and prior absentee record into account. See the catalog for additional details.
<http://www.uta.edu/catalog/2001/general/academicreg.html>

Students are required to prepare for each lesson by reading & listening to the text /dialogue and the vocabulary before the onset of the lesson. Students will show their preparedness through their ready answers, participation, role-playing the scenes/dialogues, and quizzes.

The Arabic Language and Culture Society: (Arabic club): The Arabic club, known as *Al-Naadi*, is an Arabic language and culture society open for membership to all students interested in the Arabic culture who wish to meet other students of similar interest. Arabic students are encouraged to become members. Activities include meetings, outings, film & music, and food parties. Meeting times and activities will be announced via email and Facebook webpage. Attendance is strictly voluntary. Link to the face book page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/302845826489299/>

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.
Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and 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, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2) All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic communication: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email. All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to

students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Email Policy You are responsible to check your UTA email frequently for official communications

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: : Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals. http://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/fire/Evac_Maps_Buildings.php

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

Language Lab: The Language Acquisition Center (LAC), located on the third floor of Trimble Hall, offers audio, video, and computer services. Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey is the Modern Languages Librarian. She can be reached at 817.272.7516, and by e-mail at jbailey@uta.edu. Furthermore, you will find some useful research information at: <http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-foreign.html>

By staying in this course, students acknowledge that they have received, read, understood and accept the terms of this syllabus. A copy of this syllabus will be posted on the course webpage as well as on Blackboard.

Please check Blackboard for a complete course schedule!

Tentative Course Schedule

Note: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students- Najia Alameddin