Lower Advanced Arabic

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
ARABIC 103A

Fall 2019

M – Th, 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.
Lown 103

Instructor:
Prof. Carl Sharif El-Tobgui

Course Content and Learning Objectives:

1. Mastering lower advanced-level Arabic grammar, consisting of nominal and adjectival structures more intricate than those covered in Intermediate Arabic II (40b);

2. Expanding significantly students’ stock of vocabulary, especially by stressing the assimilation of entire roots at a time (rather than isolated vocabulary items), as well as developing the ability to make educated guesses at the meanings of new words based on the student’s knowledge of Arabic morphological patterns and derivations;

3. Developing lower advanced-level reading comprehension skills;

4. Acquiring the ability to converse confidently and comfortably at the lower advanced level on a range of topics relevant to students’ interests and to various aspects relating to Arab life and culture;

5. Developing lower advanced-level aural comprehension skills, with the amount of English used in the classroom kept to a minimum outside the context of grammatical explanations and other technical details;

6. Increasing the ability to express ideas in writing through formal compositions; and

7. Gaining a greater familiarity with important figures and ideas in Arabic cultural history, as well as developing a heightened appreciation of the richness and beauty of the Arabic language.
Course Materials:

- *A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*, H. Wehr
- A battery of verb charts, as well as other supplementary materials, will be distributed in class.

Requirements:

1. **Attendance and participation:** Most of the language skills to be developed cannot be acquired without effective participation and interaction with other students and with the instructor. Our collective goal is to build an Arabic-speaking community through teamwork. To this end, attendance records will be kept rigorously. Students are allowed two (2) unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in one half point being deducted from the “Attendance” component of the course grade at the end of the semester.

2. **Punctual and thorough completion of homework assignments:** Out-of-class practice is essential for reinforcement of classroom learning, reading, and writing. Homework that is one day late will receive half credit. Homework that is two days late will be corrected, but no credit will be given. Homework later than two days will not be accepted. If unusual or extenuating circumstances prevent a student from completing a homework assignment in time, he/she should approach the professor to petition for an extension.

3. **Quizzes, tests, and final exam:** There will be a total of three vocabulary & verb quizzes and two grammar tests over the course of the semester, worth a combined 30% of the overall grade (15% for quizzes and 15% for tests). There will also be a comprehensive 3-hour final exam administered during the official university exam period at the end of the semester, worth 20% of the grade.

4. **Written essays:** Students will submit two carefully crafted, fully-voweled essays on assigned topics related to chapter themes from the textbook. Essays – worth a combined 13% of the final mark – should in all cases be taken very seriously by students, drafted and corrected several times before submission to the instructor. Essays should reflect as wide a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures as have been learned and be ambitious in terms of what is being said and how it is being said. Students’ essays should be a specimen of their very best work reflecting the most sophisticated Arabic they are able to produce at the point in time at which the essay is produced. Essays will be marked and commented upon meticulously by the instructor, whereupon students will then submit a rewritten, corrected version of their essays.

5. **Oral Presentations:** Students will deliver over the course of the semester two oral presentations, the first ranging from 10-12 and the second from 12-15 minutes in length, on a topic of their choice submitted to the instructor for approval. Presentations are meant to be taken very seriously by students, with evaluation – worth a combined 12% of the final mark
for the course – being based on the creativity of the topics chosen, the sophistication of the vocabulary and grammatical structures used commensurate with the level of the course and the competence of the individual student, and the fluency, smoothness and overall appeal of the oral presentation itself. Presentations are expected to be well rehearsed and prepared for, but in no circumstances read off of a page or simply memorized word for word and recited.

**Time Commitment:** Success in this 4-credit hour language course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 12 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (drills, homework, study, vocabulary review, etc.).

**Disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

**University Statement on Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person—be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner—without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section Three of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or dismissal from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification.

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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Written Essays</td>
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<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Office Hours & Location:**

**Hours:** Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

**Location:** Lown, 206

**E-mail:** eltobgui@brandeis.edu