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Fall 9-1-2021

### ARAB 101.50: Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I

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#### Recommended Citation

Huthaily, Khaled Y., "ARAB 101.50: Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I" (2021). *University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025*. 877.

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# **ARAB 101: Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I**

## **Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Khaled Huthaily

Email: khaled.huthaily@umontana.edu

Office: LA 431

Office Hours: Appointments by Email [Meetings Via Zoom]

## **Course Description:**

ARAB 101 is designed to introduce students to the basic Arabic language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and grammar rules at the elementary level. Needless to say, teaching language cannot be done without learning about the culture(s) where the target language is spoken. In addition, the Arab cultures have influenced and are influenced Islam. Therefore, cultural/religious topics are part of learning the Arabic language. The target proficiency level is Novice-Mid (based on proficiency guidelines from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

ARAB 101 is a fully online course (via Moodle: UOnline). Assignments will be posted twice a week (on Mondays and Wednesdays by 10:00 am MST). More info is on Moodle: <https://umonline.umn.edu>.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

The broad outcomes of the novice proficiency level are:

1. **Listening:** At the Novice level, listeners can understand key words, true aural cognates, and formulaic expressions that are highly contextualized and highly predictable, such as those found in introductions and basic courtesies. Novice-level listeners understand words and phrases from simple questions, statements, and high-frequency commands. They typically require repetition, rephrasing, and/or a slowed rate of speech for comprehension. They rely heavily on extralinguistic support to derive meaning. Novice-level listeners are most accurate when they are able to recognize speech that they can anticipate. In this way, these listeners tend to recognize rather than truly comprehend. Their listening is largely dependent on factors other than the message itself.
2. **Speaking:** Novice-level speakers can communicate short messages on highly predictable, everyday topics that affect them directly. They do so primarily through the use of isolated words and phrases that have been encountered, memorized, and recalled. Novice-level speakers may be difficult to understand even by the most sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to non-native speech.
3. **Reading:** At the Novice level, readers can understand key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases that are highly contextualized. Novice-level readers are able to get a limited amount of information from highly predictable texts in which the topic or context is very familiar, such as a hotel bill, a credit card receipt, or a weather map. Readers at the Novice level may rely heavily on their own background knowledge and extralinguistic support (such as the imagery on the weather map or the format of a credit card bill) to derive meaning. Readers at the Novice level are best able to understand a text when they are able to anticipate the information in the text. At the Novice level, recognition of key words, cognates, and formulaic phrases makes comprehension possible.
4. **Writing:** Writers at the Novice level are characterized by the ability to produce lists and notes, primarily by writing words and phrases. They can provide limited formulaic information on simple forms and documents. These writers can reproduce practiced material to convey the most simple messages. In addition, they can transcribe familiar words or phrases, copy letters of the alphabet or syllables of a syllabary, or reproduce basic characters with some accuracy.
5. **Culture:** Language and culture cannot be separate; thus, cultural topics are embedded in every lesson. Moreover, the Arab culture is heavily influenced by the religion of Islam. Various cultural topics will be discussed in the classroom, and students are encouraged to read about current events and happenings in the Arab world.

### **Required textbook:**

**Mastering Arabic 1** (with online audio) by Jane Wightwick and Mahmoud Gaafar (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition).

**Mastering Arabic 1** (Activity Book) by Jane Wightwick and Mahmoud Gaafar (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).

### **Required assignments and tests:**

Students will be assessed in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) as well as the cultural topics introduced in the course. Assessment will include:

- Classroom/Online Participation
- Listening/Speaking Activities
- Reading/Writing Activities
- Cultural Awareness Activities
- Final Project/Exam (discussed during the semester)

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Assignments	40	Late submission of assignments will carry penalty
Quizzes	30	Dates announced during the semester
Final Exam	30	More information will be discussed during the semester.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

### **Course guidelines and policies:**

#### **Student Conduct Code**

Student Conduct Code is available on: <https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php>

#### **Attendance**

Attendance policy is available on: <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/attendance.php>

#### **Course Withdrawal**

Withdrawal policy is available on: <http://www.umt.edu/business-services/Students/Student%20Accounts/Withdrawal%20Policy.php>

#### **Disability Modifications**

Disability information is available on: <https://www.umt.edu/disability/default.php>

#### **Assignment Expectations**

Students are expected to work hard, focus on grammar, memorize more vocabulary items, pay attention to pronunciation and spelling, and apply these skills and knowledge in their oral and written Arabic. Students are encouraged to use Arabic beyond the course and to interact with native speakers of Arabic. The instructor believes that the best syllabus is the one that is based not only on the teacher's experience and the course's goals, but also on the students' needs and interests. The instructor encourages students to share feedback with him at any time during the course.

#### **Grading policy**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>GPA</u>
A	93-100	4
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2
C-	70-72	1.7

D+	67-69	1.3
D	63-66	1
D-	60-62	0.7
F	0-59	0