



SYLLABUS

MODERN STANDARD ARABIC (MSA) 400 (Intermediate Level)

Instructor Name: AFIL faculty

Contact Hrs: 120

UO Quarter Credits: 12

Language of Instruction: Arabic

FES, MOROCCO

Course Prerequisite:

MSA 300, placement test, or Program/Language Coordinator approval

Course Description:

MSA 400 is an intermediate course in Modern Standard Arabic. In this course, the students will learn how to read and talk about a variety of topics related to Arab culture and history in general. The textbook used in MSA 400 is *Al-Kitaab, part II*. Unlike the first part of *Al-Kitaab*, which was a story-based, the second part is essentially content-based. Students not only learn to read, but they also read to learn using both their lexical and structural competencies. From both quantitative and qualitative perspectives, part 2 of *Al-Kitaab* contains more vocabulary pages, more reading passages, and more authentic materials than part I. The main objective of the course is to expose the learners to a wide range of 'natural' lexical corpora related to different thematic fields. It is also aimed at developing both fluency and accuracy through the intensive exposure to the different styles and idiomatic expressions used by native speakers. In addition, the course will develop a deep understanding of many aspects of the Arabic language and Arab culture. The role of the learners is crucial and twofold. First, they are expected to practice the new vocabulary items, expressions, and grammar points presented in the book. Second, they are expected to use their background knowledge to negotiate the meaning of never-seen-before vocabulary and deal with complex grammatical structures. Despite the challenges posed by *Al-Kitaab Part II*, its topics are culturally rich and open horizons for the students to do more research.

The topics that the students will deal with in MSA 400 include Arab travelers and cities, celebrations, the history of Arab journalism, the Arab university, and literary figures in the Arab world. The grammar in book two tackles more complex Arabic structures. Thus, the students will learn how to use verb tenses in narratives and other structures such as, numbers, doubled verbs, active and passive participles, the *nuun* of the *idafa*, *kana* and its sisters, the passive, *inna* and its sisters, nouns denoting places, broken plurals, diptotes, accusatives of specification, and more *idafa* rules.

The students are expected to give presentations participate in discussions in class. They are also required to write papers in Arabic and do other projects.

The students are expected to come to class prepared. They have to watch the DVD component and do the listening exercises at home. They also have to do the vocabulary and reading exercises beforehand, so that they will be able to practice and communicate in class. They are expected to spend a minimum of ten hours a week outside of class on homework and review. The students will also be required to carry out some written and visual projects.

The students will take a quiz at the end of each of the first five weeks. They will take a final (accumulative) exam by the end of the course.

Course Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Refine their vocabulary and guess the meaning of new words from contexts
- Enhance their knowledge about Arabic sentence structures
- Acquire the techniques of writing coherent paragraphs
- Understand various expressions used in conversational Arabic
- Understand the techniques of developing different forms of composition (writing letters, short narrative and descriptive texts)
- Read and grasp short articles from newspapers
- Acquire in-depth knowledge about life and society in the Arab world

Method of Evaluation (Grading)

Grading is broken down as follows:

1. Quizzes: 30 %
2. Final exam (written): 30 %
3. Final exam (oral): 20 %
4. Homework: 10 %
5. Attendance & class participation: 10 %

Course Schedule

- Week 1: Placement test
 - General review
 - Additional materials: Preparation for Alkitab part II
 - Quiz # 1
- Week 2: Alkitab 2: Lesson 1
 - Additional materials
 - Quiz # 2
- Week 3: Alkitab 2: Lesson 2
 - Additional materials
 - Quiz # 3
- Week 4: Review Lessons 1 & 2
 - Alkitab 2: Lesson 3
 - Additional materials
 - Quiz # 4
- Week 5: Alkitab 2: Lesson 4
 - Additional materials
 - Quiz # 5

Week 6: Alkitab 2: Lesson 5
Additional materials
General review
Final exam

Course Readings

1. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya with DVDs: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Two, Third Edition.*
2. *The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*

MSA 400 will cover lessons 1-5 from Al-Kitaab Part II.

The textbooks will be supplemented by additional materials.