

ARAB 401 – Arabic Advanced Low**Noor Majan Training Institute**

Academic Director: Hussein Al Farsi

Office hours:

Tel.: +968 99427098

Sundays through Thursdays 1:10 – 2:00 p.m.

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Other meetings may be arranged in advance

Required material:

Advanced low students will use *Al Kitaab fi Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya II* by Mahmoud Al-Batal/Kristen Brustad, et al., second edition (Georgetown, 2006), chapters 3 – 6, provided by the institute. Additional material, such as texts and exercises from other textbooks and authentic sources, will be presented in class.

Recommended text:

The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic by Hans Wehr, fourth edition, edited by J. Milton Cowan (Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services); an Arabic-English Dictionary

Online dictionary: several are available, e.g. the Cambridge Dictionary at www.dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-arabic/

Online learning: <http://www.cram.com/>, <http://www.aljazeera.net/portal>

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the Advanced low level, students can participate more confidently in conversations about political and social issues. They can retell stories and speak about events that happened in the past. Students at this level will be able to express themselves about a variety of topics in all tenses. They can be understood by native speakers and partake in their conversations. At this level students will gain a deeper understanding of *kān*, *inna* and *their sisters* as well as how these affect the remainder of a sentence or utterance. They will also be familiar with *false Iqāfa-constructions* and irregular verbs and able to use these correctly. Students will be able to understand and analyze Arabic grammar as used in diverse sources.

Students will be able to use new grammar and vocabulary in order to produce coherent texts about social, historical, and personal topics.

Topics covered:

- Arabic press
- Arab universities
- Different literary topics about Arabic literature
- The Arab women's movement(s)

Media Literacy

Noor Majan Training Institute uses authentic materials from print and broadcast media, as well as from

the internet. Students acquire the competence to take in, understand, and comment on news broadcasts, articles, excerpts, and forum contributions using the appropriate register.

For the advanced low level these materials can include, but are not limited to, historic overviews and features on Arab newspapers and news outlets, portraits and background documentaries about the Arab women's movement and its protagonists, debates and opinion pieces on women's rights in Arab societies, literary excerpts, feuilleton pages, graphs, or maps, and law texts.

Course Requirements

- **Participation in class:** Attendance is obligatory. Furthermore, each student is expected to participate in class and to be adequately prepared to do so. Assignments will be discussed and corrected in class. Students will be graded on quantity and quality of participation. More than two absences might result in the termination of students' course participation.
- **Oral presentations:** Students will have to give weekly presentations in class about different issues.
- **Portfolio:** Students will prepare a portfolio in the media class to document their progress and topical and language learning.
- **Homework & written assignments:** Students are expected to accomplish the given homework and writing assignments within the announced time frame. Homework assignments can be either collected, or corrected, or presented in class. Students will be graded on the extent and regularity of accomplishment, as well as their correctness.

Exams:

- **Tests:** Throughout the course students will be presented with weekly quizzes to test different language skills in the classroom. These small tests take place every Thursday (except the last Thursday of each course).
- **Final exam:** The final exam is taken at the very end of the course and examines language development in all skills. It takes place on the last Wednesday of the course.

Student Evaluation

Students receive feedback from instructors throughout the course. Evaluation is a reflection of the student's proficiency, participation, engagement and progress. Feedback is based on oral participation in class, results in quizzes, tests, portfolios, mid-term and final exams as well as oral presentations in class and homework completion. Students will meet their teachers individually at least once on a weekly basis during office hours to discuss their performance and progress.

Grading:

Final exam: 40 %

Weekly quizzes: 15 %

Homework: 10 %

Classroom participation: 10 %

Oral presentations: 10 %

Grading Scale

| Excellent | | Very Good | | Good | | Pass | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 94 – 100% | A | 87 – 89% | B+ | 77 – 79% | C+ | 67 – 69% | D+ |
| 90 – 93% | A- | 84 – 86 % | B | 74 – 76% | C | 64 – 66% | D |
| | | 80 – 83% | B- | 70-73% | C- | | |

Anything below 64% is considered a failing grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty or academic misconduct is any type of cheating or lying that occurs in relation to a formal academic exercise.

Cases of academic dishonesty and appropriate punishments are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Incidents of academic dishonesty can lead to failure of a course and/or expulsion from the NMTI program without refund of tuition.

Language Guidelines

The language of instruction and language of communication at Noor Majan Training Institute is Arabic.

Schedule

Classes will take place Sundays through Thursdays. Students will be in classes for 25 contact hours weekly according to the following schedule:

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 8:30 – 10:10 | Lesson 1: textbook work |
| 10:30 – 11:20 | Lesson 2: skills focus |
| 11:30 – 1:10 | Lesson 3: media literacy |

One contact hour is 50 minutes long.