



University of Wisconsin-Madison

MEDLI Summer 2026

Elementary Summer Arabic

جامعة ويسكونسن-ماديسون

برنامج اللغة العربية

Course Information:

Course Title & Number: Elementary Arabic Language Course (AFRICAN 339 & AFRICAN 340)

Credits: 8

Meeting Days: Monday–Friday

Time: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time)

Instructional Modality: Online via Zoom

Zoom link for class:



Instructor Information:

Dr. Haidar Khezri

Email:



Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:00–4:00 PM, and by appointment

Required Course Materials:

1. *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* (3rd edition) by Brustad, Al-Batal & Al-Tonsi. ISBN: 978-1-58901-632-3, **(Required)**. I've uploaded a PDF version of the textbook to the files for your convenience. If you prefer a physical copy, feel free to purchase one.
2. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al- 'Arabiyya*, Part I (3rd edition) by Brustad, Al-Batal & Al-Tonsi. ISBN: 9781589017375, **(Required)**. I've uploaded a PDF version of the textbook to the files for your convenience. If you prefer a physical copy, feel free to purchase one.
3. **Companion Website for Alif Baa & Al-Kitaab, 3rd Edition.** I have created an account. Please check the 'Files' section and look for it under the name: Multimedia.
4. *Hans-Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. **(Optional)**

Course Description:

The Primary goal of this eight-week intensive course is to introduce students to basic Modern Standard Arabic to enable students to communicate in Arabic in authentic, everyday situations both orally and in writing. Students will work within four language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The course will incorporate the Arabic cultural knowledge necessary for efficient and real-life communication in the Arabic language in different situations.

Requisites:

None

Course Goals:

By the end of this semester, you will **إن شاء الله** have reached the **Novice High** level of proficiency in Arabic based on the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012*. This means that you will be able to:

Speaking:

- Manage successfully a number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations.
- Handle conversation in a few predictable topics necessary for survival in the target-language culture such as basic personal information, a limited number of activities, preferences, and immediate needs.
- Respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information.
- Ask a few basic questions

Writing:

- Meet limited, basic, practical writing needs using lists, short messages, postcards, and simple notes.
- Express yourself in the context in which the language was learned by relying mainly on practiced material.
- Focus on common elements of daily life.
- Recombine learned vocabulary and structures to create simple sentences on very familiar topics.

Listening:

- Understand information from sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in basic personal and social contexts with contextual or extra-linguistic support (although comprehension may be very uneven)
- Understand speech dealing with areas of practical need such as highly standardized messages, phrases, or instructions, if the vocabulary has been learned.

Reading:

- Understand, fully and with relative ease, key words and cognates as well as formulaic phrases across a range of highly contextualized texts.
- Understand predictable language and messages such as those found on train schedules, roadmaps, and street signs.
- Derive meaning from short, non-complex, texts that convey basic information with the help of contextual or extra-linguistic support.

How Credit Hours are Met by the Course:

The credit standard for each of the 4-credit courses is met by requiring at least **180 total hours of student engagement** with course learning activities, consistent with the UW–Madison standard of **at least 45 hours of learning activities per credit**. These learning activities include scheduled instructor-student meeting times as well as asynchronous reading, writing, listening, speaking, preparation, homework, projects, studying, and other course-related activities. **Required co-curricular programming** will take place on Fridays, which includes lectures, language practice, cultural sessions, and other structured activities designed to support and extend course learning.

Regular and Substantive Student-Instructor Interaction:

This course meets the regular and substantive student-instructor interaction requirement. By

engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment through direct instruction, providing feedback on student work, providing information about course content, and facilitating discussion of course content on a weekly basis. Regular and substantive student-instructor interaction, as defined by the US Department of Education (Within 34 C.F.R. §600.2), is always a requirement of UW-Madison for-credit learning activities

Course Website and Digital Instructional Tools

- Link to institute website: <https://wisli.wisc.edu>

- Link to Canvas page: [REDACTED]

- Zoom link for class: [REDACTED]

Grading:

Component	Percentage	
Attendance and Participation	15 %	الحضور والمشاركة
Homework	15 %	الواجبات
Conversation Hour	10 %	ساعة الدردشة
Midterm Exam	20 %	امتحان نصف الفصل
Final Video Project	10 %	مشروع الفيديو النهائي
Cultural Activities	10 %	الأنشطة الثقافية
Final Exam	20 %	الامتحان النهائي

Final Grade Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A	92–100%
AB	88–91%
B	82–87%
BC	77–81%
C	70–76%
D	60–69%
F	Below 60%

Course Requirements:

All course materials, announcements, and the weekly schedule will be available on Canvas. Students will use Canvas to complete and submit assignments, quizzes, and projects, as well as to monitor their grades throughout the semester.

1. Attendance and Participation (15%) الحضور والمشاركة

You must attend class regularly and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. This means listening to the DVD, learning the new vocabulary, and studying the grammar explanations in the book before coming to class so that class time can be devoted to activating the new materials.

Again, once we learn any new words and expressions we will start using them immediately in class. You must come prepared to participate fully in all class activities AND USE ARABIC as much as you can. Again, failure to speak Arabic as much as you can in class will result in the loss of your participation points for the class.

- If you have a chronic illness that might require you to miss classes during the semester, please inform the instructor as well as schedule an appointment with the MEDLI Academic Director, at the beginning of the semester.
- If you are absent due to an illness, you are required to meet with MEDLI Academic Director. You will also be required to submit necessary documentation.
- Any emergency circumstances for absences can be addressed to MEDLI Academic Director.

Absences due to Religious Observances:

- MEDLI follows the UW-Madison policy for religious observances. If you need to be absent from class due to religious observances, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible and no later than the first week of class of the specific days or dates on which you request relief.

2. Homework Assignments (15%) الواجبات

There will be daily homework assignments. Late homework assignments may be corrected but will not be given any credit. This semester, homework assignments will be rated on a scale from 1 to 10 (8-10 = excellent, 5-7 = good but not your best effort, and 2-4 = poor or sloppy work). You will be rated on the overall quality of your work, not on the number of correct or incorrect answers. Homework assignments are intended to enhance your learning of the new material. So, spend as much time as needed on your homework assignments and make sure that what you submit reflects your absolute best. Please submit your homework written out clearly. If you plan to type your homework, please make sure that you use the Arabic keyboard ([hereLinks to an external site.](#) or [hereLinks to an external site.](#)) and write the Arabic words and phrases from right to left. If you plan to submit a scan or a photo of your homework, please make sure it is clear. For each homework assignment, please include the due date of the assignment, unit number, drill number, and page number.

3. Conversation Hour & OPI (10%) ساعة الدردشة

The Conversation (*Dardasha*) Hour provides you with the opportunity to speak Arabic in small groups. Your grade for the *Dardasha* Hour will depend on your attendance as well as your full and energetic participation in all the *Dardasha* activities.

4. Midterm Exam (20%) امتحان نصف الفصل

The Midterm Exam will be comprehensive and will cover the following: 1) vocabulary, 2) grammar, 3) reading, 4) writing, 5) listening, 6) culture, and the 7) dialect.

5. Final Video Project (10%) مشروع الفيديو النهائي

For the Final Video Project, you will produce a video which will showcase how much Arabic you have learned this semester. You will have to use both Modern Standard Arabic and the dialect in your video in contextually appropriate ways. Your video can take any form (short film, TV show, skit, TV commercial, a sitcom, news reporting, etc.) For a group of two the video will be 15-20 minutes long. Each participant is required to produce an equal amount of language in the video.

6. Cultural Activities (10%) الأنشطة الثقافية

This semester, we will screen several Arabic and Middle Eastern movies and attend several cultural activities. For each movie or cultural activity write a commentary in English and (150 words).

7. Final Exam (20%) الامتحان النهائي

The Final Exam will be comprehensive and will cover the following: 1) vocabulary, 2) grammar, 3) reading, 4) writing, 5) listening, 6) culture, 7) dialect, and 8) the Weekly Reading. You will be informed later in the semester of the date of the Final Exam.

General Guidelines for Exam Proctoring

Students must comply with all proctoring requirements, including sharing their screen, enabling their webcam and microphone, and verifying their identity when requested by the instructor.

Course Schedule/Calendar:

(For weekly detailed schedule, visit Canvas)

Week 1: *Alif Baa* chapters 1-5

Week 2: *Alif Baa* chapters 5-10, and review

Week 3: *Alkitaab* chapter 1

Week 4: *Alkitaab* chapter 2

Friday July 10, OPI (instructor conducted) & Exam

Week 5 (July 14): *Alkitaab* chapter 3

Week 6 (July 21): *Alkitaab* chapter 4

Week 7 (July 28): *Alkitaab* chapter 5

Week 8 (August 4): Review (*Alkitaab* chapters 1-5)

Friday August 7, OPI (instructor conducted) & Exam

MEDLI conducted official OPI (will be scheduled by the Program Coordinator)

Required co-curricular Friday programming is as follows:

Friday, June 19	11:00 am	Global Professionals Panel Sessions
Friday, June 26	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables
Friday, July 3	TBD	WISLI Research Symposium
Friday, July 10	8:30 am	Final Exams
Friday, July 17	–	Asynchronous Review/Study Day
Friday, July 24	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables
Friday, July 31	11:00 am	Intercultural Learning Session
Friday, August 7	8:30 am	Final Exams

WISLI Program Policies:

Attendance Policy

Students may miss one class per semester without penalty; a second absence can result in a full grade deduction; three or more absences may lead to an additional grade reduction or automatic failure.

Tardiness Policy

Tardiness is defined as arriving more than 5 minutes late to the start of class as well as the time immediately following scheduled breaks. **Excessive tardiness** is arriving more than 10 minutes late to class. Tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will be considered a half- or full-day absence. In instances of repeated tardiness:

- **Three instances of tardiness** will result in a warning. A fourth instance of tardiness will require a meeting with an Academic Director.
- **Three instances of excessive tardiness** (arriving more than 10 minutes late but less than 30) will be counted as a half-day absence.
- **Repeated tardiness in excess of 30 minutes** will be subject to the WISLI absence policy.
- **Continued tardiness or excessive tardiness** may result in further penalty or dismissal.

WISLI understands that unforeseen circumstances can occur. Please notify the course instructor of any tardiness or absences as soon as possible.

WISLI Technology Policy

There are many helpful online tools available to language learners, and these tools should be used responsibly and in alignment with UW-Madison expectations of [academic integrity](#) and guidelines on [generative artificial intelligence](#). Do not use translation software or AI tools unless instructed to use these tools for assignments or projects. In these instances, these tools are to be used only in the manner permitted by the instructor. Ask for clarification if you have any questions about what is allowed.

Please see CTLM's [AI Statements for Course Syllabi](#). Instructors may adapt or expand these statements to reflect their own academic integrity standards and expectations for AI use.

UW-Madison Academic Policies and Statements

- [Academic Calendar and Religious Observances](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Course Evaluations](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Student Health, Well-Being & Basic Needs](#)
- [Privacy of Student Records and the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures](#)
- [Remote Proctoring with Honorlock \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Students' Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Teaching & Learning Data Transparency](#)