

أهلاً وسهلاً  
'ahlan wa sahlan

## Beginning Arabic I (ARBC0101B)

Middlebury College  
Fall 2011  
First Class (Sept 12, 2011)

## Logistics

Class meetings  
MWF 9:05-9:55am, in RCD B11.  
TR: 9:30-10:45am, also in RCD B11.

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## Instructor

- Instructor: Usama Soltan
- Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30am to noon, and by appointment. E-mail or call to make an appointment.
- Instructor's office: Farrell House, Room 206.
- Office phone extension: x5869

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## Textbooks and course materials

- *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds.* by Brustad, Al-Batal, and Al-Tonsi. Includes DVDs. We will use that for the first four weeks or so of the semester.
- *Al-Kitaab: A textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part I,* by Brustad, Al-Batal, and Al-Tonsi. Includes DVDs. We will use that over the last eight weeks of the semester.
- Supplementary materials prepared by the instructor.
- Course website, accessible via Segue.

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## Course description

- This is the first course in the Beginning Arabic sequence, which includes Arabic 101, 102, and 103.
- It aims to introduce you to Arabic, with particular focus on formal Arabic, or so-called Modern Standard Arabic, the language of writing and formal speech in the Arab world, though introduction to aspects of spoken Arabic, particularly those related to daily life expressions, is also emphasized.
- The class focuses on developing your ability to use Arabic in all four language skills : speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

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## Objectives of the course

- By the end of this course, you will be able to:
  1. Pronounce and distinguish between all Arabic sounds.
  2. Master the Arabic alphabet, and write Arabic words accurately from dictation
  3. Initiate social interactions and ask about basic information.
  4. Be able to talk in simple sentences about yourself, your education, and your family.

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## Objectives of the course

4. Listen to and comprehend simple audio texts in Arabic.
5. Read and understand simple authentic Arabic texts.
6. Write sentences and short paragraphs in Arabic about familiar topics connected to daily life.
7. Familiarize yourself with some of the differences between formal and spoken Arabic.
8. Have a general understanding of some aspects of Arab culture connected to everyday life.

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## Course Requirements

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## Course Requirements

Course requirement	Percentage
Attendance & Participation	15%
10 Conversation Hours	5%
Homework Assignments	20%
8 Quizzes	15%
Oral Presentation	5%
A One-page Written Essay	5%
Midterm and Final Exams	35%

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## Attendance and Participation (15%)

- You are expected to attend EVERY class. Also, please do your best NOT to come to class late.
- A class absence is only excused if it is accompanied by a note from your Commons' Dean or a physician.
- While one or two unexcused absences may not affect your grade greatly, more than two unexcused absences definitely will.
- Excused or unexcused, if you know you'll be missing a class, please do notify me before or after the class.

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## Attendance and Participation (15%)

- This is a student-centered class, so participation is a key component of classroom activities.
- You are expected to come prepared for class activities (this means checking the syllabus online, doing the assigned readings in the textbook before coming to class, studying the assigned vocabulary and grammar, and actively participating in pair or group work). That said, please do not skip class if you are not fully prepared.
- You will also be asked to go to relevant events that take place on campus. Announcements for these will be made in due time both by e-mail and in class.

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## Conversation Hours (5%)

- Conversation hours will be organized by Iman, our TA. You are required to go to at least **TEN** of these sessions.
- Each session is thus worth 0.5% of your overall percentage.
- You will be contacted by Iman, with your conversation hour schedule.

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## Homework Assignments (20%)

- Homework assignments are an integral part of this class and are crucial to help you fully understand the material and improve your proficiency in the different language skills as well as in learning the alphabet, the sounds, as well as new vocabulary and grammar.
- Assignments include drills assigned from the textbook as well as any other work that I assign, e.g., in-class role-play activities, out-of-class conversation recordings, etc.

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## Homework Assignments

- There will be daily assignments. Readings and class preparation must be done *before* coming to class. Written homework (marked as **Turn in** on the syllabus page) is due at the beginning of class on the day designated in the syllabus.
- You are expected to turn in these assignments on time. A late assignment will be subject to a 10% delay penalty if turned in on the next day it is due, though crucially before I discuss the solutions in class.
- Assignments turned in later than that are subject to a 20% delay penalty if I have not discussed the solutions in class already.
- Needless to say, you cannot turn in any assignment if I already discussed the solutions in class.

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## Homework Assignments

- You are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together, with the stipulation that everyone must submit her/his own individual answers.
- Please hand in your homework on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure to SKIP lines and leave some blank margins for me to write comments on your answers.
- Also, please turn in 'neat' work ☺. Sloppy work is easily detected and annoys your grader ☹.
- For each assignment please include the number of the assignment as well as the number of the exercise (if it is from the textbook).

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## Quizzes (15%)

- There will be **EIGHT** quizzes over the semester. These quizzes are meant to test your your understanding of the materials that we cover in every unit, particularly the alphabet, the sound system, vocabulary and grammar.
- Dates for quizzes will be posted on the syllabus page on the course website. I will also give reminders in class.

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## Oral presentation (5%)

- Each student is required to do an oral presentation during the last week of classes (December 5-8) on a topic of your choice to be approved by the instructor.
- Presentations are expected to be done individually. I am open, however, to joint presentations if you can convince me that it is an interesting idea for you to present with someone else. No presentation, however, can involve more than two students.
- You are required to notify me of the topic of your presentation will be. **Topics are due Friday Nov 18<sup>th</sup>**. I will send reminders as the deadline approaches.

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## Written Essay (5%)

- Each student is required to submit a one-page written essay on a topic of your choice to be approved by the instructor. The essay is due Wednesday Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Please notice that the topic of your oral presentation cannot be the same as that of your written essay.
- Again, you need to consult with me regarding what you want to write about. **Topics for the written essay are due Friday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**. I will send reminders as the deadline approaches.

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## Exams (35%)

- There will be two exams: a mid-term exam (worth 15%) and a final exam (worth 20%). The format of each exam will be announced in class in due time.
- The midterm will be held in class on Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9-12.

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## Honor Code

- Remember that the Middlebury College Honor Code is in effect in this class. Submitting work that is not your own, or that you did not participate in doing, is a violation of that code. If you have any questions about the code, please ask me, or check the following link on the college's website:  
<http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/dos/honorcode>

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## Grading

- I will follow the following system in assigning your letter grades:  
95%+ is A  
from 90%+ to 95% is A-  
from 87%+ to 90% is B+  
from 83%+ to 87% is B  
from 80%+ to 83% is B-  
from 75%+ to 80% is C+  
from 70%+ to 75% is C  
from 65%+ to 70% is C-  
from 50%+ to 65% is D  
50% and under is F.

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Good luck!

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