

ARABIC 411 **Colloquial Arabic 1**

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Zeidan
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Class schedule: MW 1:30 – 3:18
Class Location:
Class number:
Credit: U 5

Prerequisite: Arabic 104

Description

Introduction to the phonology and grammar of the everyday spoken language used in the Eastern Arab world.

Rationale

It has long been observed that Arabic usage exemplifies the sociolinguistic condition known as **diglossia**. Simply stated, diglossic speech communities have a High (i.e., literary or standard) variety that is very prestigious and a Low (i.e., colloquial or dialectal) variety with no official status which are in complementary distribution with each other; for instance the High variety might be used for literary and formal discourse and the Low variety for ordinary conversation and routine daily transactions. Arabic instruction at Ohio State focuses primarily on teaching Modern Standard Arabic, because this is the form of the language used by educated Arabic speakers throughout the Arab world. This course, however, will focus on teaching a widely used colloquial variety of Arabic, because this is the language used “on the ground.”

Expected Learning Outcomes

There are roughly four major dialect groups, a) Maghrebi (Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and western Libya), b) Egyptian (eastern Libya, Egypt and the Sudan), c) Levantine (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine) and d) the Arabic of the Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf (Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and Kuwait). By the end of this course, students should be able to communicate in Levantine Arabic on a basic level in order to deal with everyday life situations such as introducing oneself and others; requesting and giving information; shopping; talking about food; describing people, places, and things. The course will promote discussion skills for more specialized conversations about cultural and social aspects of life.

Student evaluation:

Class Presentation:	20%	(topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor)
Class Participation:	20%	
Quizzes (2)	10%	
Midterm Examination:	20%	
Final Examination:	30%	

Grading scale:

A (94-100) A- (90-93) B+ (87-89) B (83-86) B- (80-82) C+ (77-79) C (73-76) C- (70-72) D+ (67-69) D (63-66) D- (60-63) F (below 60)

Required Text and Audio materials (available from SBX):

Rice, Frank & Majed Sa'id, *Eastern Arabic with MP3 Files*. Washington, DC : Georgetown University Press, 2005.

SYLLABUS**Week One**

Introduction to the course
Diglossia in Arabic
Pronunciation practice (MP3 files)
Rice and Sa'id, Unit I: Greetings and courtesy expressions
Grammar: Pattern Sentences
MP3 Files: Feminine Forms; Plural Forms; Independent Pronouns

Week Two

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 2: Directions
Rice and Sa'id, Unit 3: Arrival
Grammar: - Numbers 1 – 20
MP3 Files: Additional Expressions; Feminine Forms (said to a woman); and Plural Forms (said to a woman & to a group); Masculine Forms (said about a man); Feminine Forms (said about a woman)

Week Three

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 4: Getting around
Grammar: Numbers (20 – 100 by tens)
MP3 Files: Structure Sentences; Feminine Forms (said to a woman); Plural Forms (said to a group); Masculine Forms (said by or for a group); Masculine Forms (said about a man); Independent Pronouns

***** Quiz # 1**

(date)

Week Four

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 5: Requests and information
Rice and Sa'id, Unit 6: Where is it?
Grammar: Numbers 21 – 29 & Numbers 100 – 1, 000 by hundreds

MP3 Files: Masculine Nouns; Feminine Nouns; The Prefix for “the”; Commands; Adjectives; Prepositions; Prefix Tense Verbs

Four class presentations by students-
(5 minutes each)

Week Five

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 7: Introductions

MP3 Files: Prefix Tense Verbs

***** Midterm Examination (date)**

Week Six

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 8: Family and children

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 9: Where have you been?

MP3 Files: Counting: 11 – 20; Singular and Dual of Nouns; Feminine *T*-Nouns, the word '*ind*

Four class presentations by students
(5 minutes each)

Week Seven

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 10: In a coffee shop

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 11: Telling time

MP3 Files: Ordering Things; The preposition *fii*; Time Expression; The preposition '*ala*

Four class presentations by students
(5 minutes each)

***** Quiz # 2**

(date)

Week Eight

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 12: Eating out

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 13: Buying some clothes

MP3 Files: Verbal Phrases; Article of Clothing; Kinds of Cloth; Measures; Seasons; The Suffix *-l*

Four class presentations by students
(5 minutes each)

Week Nine

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 14: At the tailor's

Rice and Sa'id, Unit 15: Speaking Arabic

MP3 Files: Days of the Week; Color Adjectives;

Sewing Needs; Noun Annexion, Negative Command

Four class presentations by students
(5 minutes each)

Week Ten

General review

***** Final Examination**

(date)

Attendance Policy

Since colloquial Arabic is by definition not a written language, attending class in order to benefit from speaking and listening drills, dialogs, and conversational exchanges is essential to doing well in this course. Since things do come up (illness, family issues, other commitments), a student may be absent **two times** without penalty. After those two absences, each additional unexcused absence will lower the overall grade, up to 5% per unexcused absence. After two absences, the instructor must be informed **by email** if there is a need to miss class, preferably ahead of time. If a student is ill for a significant period of time, or has other reasons that prevent her/him from attending class, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>