

Introduction to the Arabic Newspaper

COURSE DESIGNATOR MRCO 3005/MSA 250

Language of Instruction Arabic

NUMBER OF CREDITS 5 credits

Contact Hours 90 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to introduce the language of print and Internet news media to students of Arabic who are seeking basic knowledge in this area. It focuses mainly on vocabulary expansion in order to be able to grasp certain basic structures, including the construction of phrases and the reading of headlines. This process is handled carefully so that students can easily cope with the new environment which is different from what they have already learned in Al Kitaab.

INSTRUCTOR

ALIF faculty

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Learn and activate the jargon of media Arabic
- Grasp specific collocations which enable them to expand their vocabulary
- Know how headlines are constructed and the kind of grammatical structures being exploited
- Develop methods of headline skimming
- Write their own headlines and concise news stories

COURSE PREREQUISITES

MRCO 1002 (Beginning Modern Standard Arabic II), or program/language coordinator approval

REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

There are no set textbooks for this class but the instructor will produce the required worksheets that will be circulated.

GRADING

Students will be evaluated for progress by the following methods:

- Listening tests designed to assess students' ability to understand the audio and video material
- Oral reports to discuss one of the topics suggested by the student or instructor
- Written reports designed to show students' mastery of the course and of the Arabic language
- Weekly quizzes to assess students' ability to recall and critically analyze the concepts studied
- A final exam designed to assess students' understanding of the essential concepts and issues raised in class

CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Grading Rubric		
A	93+	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of how grades are weighted:

Quizzes	40%
Final Exam	30%
Homework	10%
Oral Presentation & Research Projects	10%
Attendance & Class Participation	10%
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Overall grade	100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

- Introducing the language of **meetings and conferences**

WEEK 2

- Vocabulary activities on the theme of meetings and official visits

WEEK 3

- Reading headlines (video activities)

WEEK 4

- Introducing the language of **talks and negotiations**

WEEK 5

- Vocabulary activities on the theme of talks and negotiations

WEEK 6

- Reading headlines (video activities)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.