
Accelerated Modern Standard Arabic IV

(Modern Standard Arabic - Intermediate)

COURSE DESIGNATOR MRCO 3702

Language of Instruction Arabic

NUMBER OF CREDITS 6 credits

Contact Hours 120 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MRCO 3702 is an intermediate course in Modern Standard Arabic. In this course, the students will learn how to read and talk about a variety of topics related to Arab culture and history in general. The textbook used in MRCO 3702 (MSA 400) is *Al-Kitaab, part II*. Unlike the first part of *Al-Kitaab*, which was a story-based, the second part is essentially content-based. Students not only learn to read, but they also read to learn using both their lexical and structural competencies. From both quantitative and qualitative perspectives, part 2 of *Al-Kitaab* contains more vocabulary pages, more reading passages, and more authentic materials than part I. The main objective of the course is to expose the learners to a wide range of 'natural' lexical corpora related to different thematic fields. It is also aimed at developing both fluency and accuracy through the intensive exposure to the different styles and idiomatic expressions used by native speakers. In addition, the course will develop a deep understanding of many aspects of the Arabic language and Arab culture. The role of the learners is crucial and twofold. First, they are expected to practice the new vocabulary items, expressions, and grammar points presented in the book. Second, they are expected to use their background knowledge to negotiate the meaning of never-seen-before vocabulary and deal with complex grammatical structures. Despite the challenges posed by *Al-Kitaab Part II*, its topics are culturally rich and open horizons for the students to do more research.

The topics that the students will deal with in MRCO 3702 (MSA 400) include housing and rent, friends and family, shopping and colors, months and expressions for special occasions, family relations in the Arab world, and parts of the body. The grammar in book two tackles more complex Arabic structures. Thus, the students will learn how to use verb patterns, the *idafa*, the negation, *Kana* and its sisters, the nominative, accusative and genitive case endings, the dual and more *idafa* rules.

The students are expected to give presentations participate in discussions in class. They are also required to write papers in Arabic and do other projects.

INSTRUCTOR

ALIF faculty

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Refine their vocabulary and guess the meaning of new words from contexts
2. Enhance their knowledge about Arabic sentence structures
3. Acquire the techniques of writing coherent paragraphs
4. Understand various expressions used in conversational Arabic
5. Understand the techniques of developing different forms of composition (writing letters, short narrative and descriptive texts)
6. Read and grasp short articles from newspapers
7. Acquire in-depth knowledge about life and society in the Arab world

COURSE PREREQUISITES

MSA 300 (MRCO 3701), placement test, or Program/Language Coordinator approval

METHODOLOGY

The students are expected to come to class prepared. They have to watch the DVD component and do the listening exercises at home. They also have to do the vocabulary and reading exercises beforehand, so that they will be able to practice and communicate in class. They are expected to spend a minimum of ten hours a week outside of class on homework and review. The students will also be required to carry out some written and visual projects.

The students will take a quiz at the end of each of the first five weeks. They will take a final (accumulative) exam by the end of the course.

REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

1. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya with DVD 3rd edition: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part Two, Third Edition.*
2. *The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*

MRCO 3702 will cover lessons 1-5 from *Al-Kitaab Part II*

The textbooks will be supplemented by additional materials

GRADING

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	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
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	30%
Final Exam (written)	30%
Final Exam (oral)	20%

Homework	10%
Attendance & Class Participation	10%
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Overall grade	100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

- Placement test
- General review
- Additional materials: Preparation for Alkitab part II
- Quiz # 1

WEEK 2

- Alkitab 2: Lesson 1
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 2

WEEK 3

- Alkitab 2: Lesson 2
- Additional materials
- Quiz #3

WEEK 4

- Review Lessons 1 & 2
- Alkitab 2: Lesson 3
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 4

WEEK 5

- Alkitab 2: Lesson 4
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 5

WEEK 6

- Alkitab 2: Lesson 5
- Additional materials
- General Review
- Exam

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 need to miss class for medical reasons, please let the on-site director know in advance of meetings so plans can be made accordingly. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the 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.