
Intensive Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

(Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced)

COURSE DESIGNATOR MRCO 3804

Language of Instruction Arabic

NUMBER OF CREDITS 10 credits

Contact Hours 180 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MRCO 3804 is an advanced course. It aims at preparing students for independent studies in MSA focusing on stylistic devices, vocabulary refinement, and communicative skills. This course is ideal for scholars wishing to hone their ability to comprehend Arabic university lectures and to express themselves on technical subjects in speech and in writing. This course also makes use of additional texts in order to reinforce the students' ability to read and comprehend complex writings.

MRCO 3804 uses *Al-Kitaab Part III* as a textbook, but moves beyond the textbook to cater for the needs of the students to have access to the real world of Arabic. Like the second volume of *Al-Kitaab*, the third volume is content based, but the texts are at the superior level. Students are expected to reach nearly total comprehension of the texts with minimal dependence on the dictionary. The texts from the classical Arabic literary tradition will enable the students to grasp both their lexical and structural features and build their competence in reading classical prose. The grammatical component of the textbook aims mainly at strengthening, fine-tuning, and expanding some of the already-learned structures.

MRCO 3804 will give a chance to students to read about and discuss some of the current issues in the Arab world, such as political Islam, cultural heritage in literature, Arabs and the West, and Arabic poetry. Students are expected to do other readings on their own and give oral presentations in class. They are also expected to take part in class discussions. The course will use additional authentic materials from newspapers and visual media to launch the students into the natural use of Arabic and stimulate good class discussions.

INSTRUCTOR

ALIF faculty

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Expand their vocabulary
2. Discuss topics of professional interest
3. Use their grammar tools to exploit reading comprehension
4. Write multi-paragraph essays on various topics
5. Summarize texts and express their views
6. Engage in long discussions about contemporary issues

COURSE PREREQUISITES

MSA 500 (MRCO 3901), 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 an (cumulative) exam (oral and written) by the end of the first six weeks.

The students will take a quiz at the end of each of the following two weeks. They will take a final (cumulative) exam (oral and written) by the end of the course.

REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

1. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya with DVD and MP3 CD: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Three.*
2. *The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*

MRCO 3804 will cover chapters 1 - 6 from *Al-Kitaab Part III*

The textbooks will be supplemented by additional course 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%
<hr/> Overall grade	<hr/> 100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

- Placement test
- Alkitab 3: Unit 1
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 1

WEEK 2

- Alkitab 3: Unit 1 (cont) – Unit 2
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 2

WEEK 3

- Alkitab 3: Unit 2 (cont)
- Review units 1 & 2
- Additional materials
- Quiz #3

WEEK 4

- Alkitab 3: Unit 3
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 4

WEEK 5

- Alkitab 3: Unit 3 (cont) – Unit 4
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 5

WEEK 6

- Alkitab 3: Unit 4 (cont)
- Review Units 3 & 4
- Additional materials
- Exam

WEEK 7

- Alkitab 3: Unit 5
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 6

WEEK 8

- Alkitab 3: Unit 5 (cont), Unit 6
- Additional materials
- Quiz # 7

WEEK 9

- Alkitab 3: Unit 6
- Review units 5 & 6
- Additional materials
- Final 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.