

CUAMACA COLLEGE
Arabic 250/251 Fall 2009

Conversational Arabic

المحادثة باللغة العربية

Fridays 9:00 – 12:05 AM

Room F-518

Instructor: Jane Abu Ghazaleh

Office Hours: By Appointment

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The Course:

This is a Conversational Arabic designed for students having completed at least Arabic 121 (Second-semester Arabic) or four years of high school Arabic or equivalent.

***Please note:** If you take Arabic 251 before taking Arabic 250, you will not be allowed to go back to take Arabic 250, nor will you fulfill the Arabic degree/certificate requirements.

Arabic is the language that will be used most of the time during the course. The instructor will use Arabic as much as possible when lecturing, asking questions and responding; you are encouraged to do the same.

Course Objectives:

Arabic 250/251 will concentrate on improving the four language skills: oral proficiency, writing, reading and listening comprehension. It is designed for students wishing to enhance their command of spoken Arabic through discussions, presentations, and debates. The focus of this course is to:

- ❖ Understand main ideas of simple texts and conversations mostly of highly predictable topics which may include personal biographies, routine or habitual activities, description of people, places or things, and weather.
- ❖ Carry on simple conversations related to previously mentioned topics.
- ❖ Write simple paragraphs on very familiar topics.
- ❖ Read with comprehension material in MSA of texts on simple narratives of routine behavior, highly predictable description of people, places or things, personal biographies and weather.
- ❖ Gain oral fluency and cultural awareness of Arabic culture.

Text (recommended but not required):

Formal Spoken Arabic, By Karin C. Ryding and David J. Mehall.

Word By Word, By Steven J Molinsky and Bill Bliss

Conversations in Modern Standard Arabic, By Belkacem Baccouche and Sanaa Azmi

Methods of instruction:

I will emphasize on the communicative approach of teaching and learning, and that requires constant class interaction in individual, paired and group activities. Active class participation is of utmost importance and students are expected to make every effort to speak Arabic.

Methods of evaluation: (Measuring Student Learning Outcomes with Representative Assignments)

My grading system will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation.

- ❖ Written and oral exams that require students to demonstrate their ability to listen, read, write and speak Arabic.
- ❖ Oral presentations that require students to demonstrate sufficient proficiency in Arabic to discuss current events and Arabic culture
- ❖ Group presentations that demonstrate ability to dialogue proficiently in Arabic about controversial topics, demonstrating critical thinking skills.

Grading

Grades will be distributed as follows:

❖ **Attendance and participation 10%**

Attendance and participation in all aspects of the course is required. Class discussions, student presentations, small-group activities, in-class assignments, homework, and discussion of videos are all very important parts of this course.

❖ **Homework and assignments 10%**

❖ **Country Presentation 25%**

❖ **Mid-term Exam 20%**

❖ **Final Exam 25%**

❖ **Final project 10%**

A small-group project, presenting and acting a short play (5 minutes minimum), including one of the topics or situations that had been previously discussed in class.

Student's Responsibility:

- ❖ 100% attendance is expected of every student. If you are not in class you cannot participate and not only will your grade suffer but also your progress in learning Arabic. Thus, if you find it difficult to attend each class for the entire period and to do so on time, it is strongly recommended that you not take this course.
- ❖ Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in oral and written work based on assignments. There will be no make-up of exams.
- ❖ Compositions, oral reports and any other assignments should be presented on time. Late assignments will not be accepted.
- ❖ It is each student's responsibility to officially drop by the due date if so desired.
- ❖ If you have a cell phone, please switch it off (or to silent vibrate mode) upon entering the classroom. Telephone ringing noise is a distraction and annoyance to both the instructor and fellow students.

***Please note:**

- ❖ Arabic is the language that will be used during the course. The instructor will use Arabic when lecturing, asking questions and responding; you are asked to do the same. A good language learner is a "risk taker" and one who views errors as a natural and integral part of the learning process.
- ❖ This course adheres to the policies outlined in the Cuyamaca College catalog. For further information, see Academic Policies stated in the catalogue.
- ❖ To support your efforts to succeed in this class, I refer you to Supervised Tutoring Services that are available. Please refer to the schedule listing. All Supervised Tutoring sections are FREE to you. You need only to enroll to receive services. No units or grades are given.

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