



## Elementary Arabic II -Syllabus

Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
New Brunswick Campus  
Spring 2025

---

### Course Info:

**Course Title:** Elementary Arabic II, section 1

**Course Number:** 01:013:141:01/01:074:141:01

**Class meets:** T/Th 3:50-5:10 PM, Scott Hall 216

**Instructor:** Jamal Ali

**Office:** Rutgers Academic Building, 15 Seminary Place, #6175, New Brunswick (848)445-0275

**Email:** [ja923@amesall.rutgers.edu](mailto:ja923@amesall.rutgers.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 5:30-6:30 PM; also available by appointment as needed on Zoom or in person.

### Course Description

Elementary Arabic II is a continuation and expansion of the basic notions introduced in Elementary I. By means of a communicative and proficiency-based approach, students will continue developing basic communicative skills in the language and exploring newer ones through a combination of interactive classroom activities, take-home assignments and group work. All language skills will continue to be equally emphasized: reading, writing, speaking and listening. In addition to expansion of the core vocabulary, students will be exposed to more complex grammatical structures of Arabic for purposes of basic communication in a wider variety of situations. Students will also explore more aspects of the Arabic culture.

### Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to comprehend, speak, read, and write Modern Standard Arabic at the Intermediate Low level of proficiency as defined by the proficiency guidelines set down by ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). Specifically, students will be able to create with language, to talk about their daily lives and about topics of immediate interest to them, and to ask questions.

### Prerequisites

This class is designed for those who have completed Elementary Arabic I at Rutgers New Brunswick, or have been placed into the class by placement exam. It is university policy that

# RUTGERS

students who have studied Arabic previously may not enroll in an Arabic class unless they take the Arabic placement exam and are placed into the appropriate class. If you do enroll without taking the exam, you may find at the end of the semester that the university will not give you credit for the class. Students who grew up in an Arabic-speaking household are considered Arabic speakers by the university and are required to take the placement exam. This is true even if your exposure is only to spoken Arabic, and you never learned to read or write Arabic. The above only applies to those with previous knowledge of Arabic. Those who have no previous knowledge of Arabic do not need to take the placement exam.

To take the placement exam, talk to the instructor or email Prof. Kashou at [hk481@amesall.rutgers.edu](mailto:hk481@amesall.rutgers.edu)

## SAS World Language Policy

Students who have taken two or more years of foreign language in high school must take a placement exam before taking a course in that language again as an undergraduate in college. Students who speak a second language at home but are looking to take courses in that language at Rutgers also need to take the placement exam. Students who have studied two or more years of a foreign language in high school may not receive credit for the 100-102 level courses in that foreign language at Rutgers. Intermediate foreign language is the first level they may receive credit for.

[https://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug\\_current/pg1012.html](https://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1012.html)

## Required Textbooks/Materials

Brustad, Al-Batal, Al-Tonsi. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabyya, A Textbook for Beginning Arabic (Part 1)*, 3rd Edition, Georgetown University Press, 2011. ISBN: 9781647121877

<https://press.georgetown.edu/Book/Al-Kitaab-Part-One-with-Website>

There are different printings of the book, and you can get a used copy. The important thing is, make sure you are getting the **third edition**.

## Additional Recommended Materials

Hans Wehr, *A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic* (Arabic to English Dictionary)

ISBN: 0879500034. There are different printings and editions of this dictionary available as well as a phone app.



## Grading

### **Grading Scale**

A=92-100; B+=88 or higher but less than 92; B=82 or higher but less than 88; C+=77 or higher but less than 82; C=70 or higher but less than 77; D=60 or higher but less than 70; F=less than 60.

### **Grade Breakdown**

- Participation/Attendance 10%
- Homework Assignments 25%
- Quizzes 25%
- Midterm exam 10%
- Final Exam 15%
- Presentations /Oral projects 15%

**Total 100%**

### **Attendance/Participation**

Due to the participatory nature of the class, the participation grade will be reduced by one point for each class missed. So if you miss, say, two classes with no good reason, your final participation grade will be no higher than 8/10. Absences will be excused only in the case of religious holidays, family emergencies, transportation emergencies, or health emergencies. In the case of absence you must submit proper documentation and notify the instructor in advance, or as soon as possible in the case of an emergency. Students who find that they need to be excused for a long period of time for medical or other reasons should contact their college dean and ask the dean to notify all their professors of their absence.

Students are still responsible for any homework scheduled, announcements, and lecture notes for the days you are absent. Students are also expected to attend the class on time as coming late will be highly disruptive to the flow of the course and to your peers. Two late arrivals will be equivalent to one absence.

The instructor is not responsible for providing you with the missed work in class due to absences from class. It is the responsibility of the student to get this information from classmates and or the posted information on Canvas.

### **Class Participation**

Class participation is essential for the course. Participation is assessed by the amount of discussion and engagement with the course material. Attendance in this course is expected and will be recorded. Homework is due before class.



In order to gain full participation grades per class, students should demonstrate sufficient knowledge of any assignments and material they were asked to prepare before class.

- Students should be able to answer and engage in discussions and class activities.
- Students should ask questions, make comments, and take conversational initiative as much as possible.
- The participation grade will be reduced for doing things which take away from your ability to be fully mentally present, or which damage the educational and communal atmosphere of the class. Such activities include: texting in class or using computers or other devices in class when not instructed to do so as part of a class activity; doing non-class related work or activities during class; doing class homework in class that was assigned to be done at home; not bringing required material to class; speaking English during oral exercises that are to be conducted in Arabic; sleeping during class; having side discussions in class; whispering answers to students who are trying to think of the answer to a question; or other disruptive or non-participatory behavior.
- Use of computers is discouraged in class; students should have printouts of their textbook if they are using an electronic copy. If a student is seen using their computer for reason other than their class work, they will have participation points deducted for the day.

### **Homework and Presentations and labs**

Throughout the semester, you will be given written and oral assignments. For the oral assignments, or “labs,” you will be asked to create short presentations and other projects with an oral component. For these, you will record yourself speaking then you will upload the recording. Some will be video recordings and some may be audio only. The recorded assignments should be uploaded to Canvas before the beginning of class on the due date. Some assignments may require you to watch a video online and answer questions about it. These will also count as labs.

Written assignments may be written by hand or typed. You may bring them to class, or, if you prefer, you can take a photo or scan of them and upload them into Canvas. The advantage of uploading them is that you will receive feedback as soon as I’ve graded them, as opposed to having to wait until the next class session. The choice is yours. However, if you upload an assignment, it must be uploaded before the beginning of class on the day due or it will be considered late.

To see what assignments are due on any given day, go to the home page of the Canvas site for the course.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date they are due. A few online assignments will have a different due date, which will be specified. Assignments must be handed in on time and completed fully in order to receive full credit. Assignments submitted



one or two class sessions late receive no more than half credit. Assignments turned in later than that will be looked at and corrected but will receive no credit.

### **Note concerning academic dishonesty when completing assignments and quizzes:**

In homework assignments and take-home tests, you may use your notes and textbook (the instructions of each quiz will specify what you may or may not use). But any help from outside the class is not allowed, including using Google Translate or any other app, software, or website, or having someone you know give you an answer or part of an answer.

You should be able to answer all the questions using things you learned in class. Any answer in any assignment or test that contains words, structures, expressions or vocabulary that we did not learn in class will not be counted.

### **Academic Integrity Policy of Rutgers University**

Rutgers University regards acts of dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty.

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational, research, and clinical missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- make sure that all work submitted in a course, academic research, or other activity is the student's own and created without the aid of impermissible technologies, materials, or collaborations
- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, images, or words of others
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with the student's interpretation or conclusions
- treat all other students ethically, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This principle requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the ethical standards and professional code of conduct in the field for which the student is preparing.

***For the complete and updated policy (June 2020), please visit Rutgers academic integrity policy webpage at:***

***<http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>***



**Class Schedule (subject to change):**

- Week 1:** 1/21-1/23, Introduction, Review, Review Lesson 3  
**Week 2:** 1/28-1/30, Arabic Food, Introducing the Past Tense, Nominal, Verbal sentence, Less. 4  
**Week 3:** 2/4-2/6, Continuation of Lesson 4  
**Week 4:** 2/11-2/13, More on definite & indefinite, Lesson 5  
**Week 5:** 2/18-2/20, How is the Weather? Counting... 11 – 100, Fairuz, a famous Arab singer  
**Week 6:** 2/25-2/27, What are your hobbies?, Days of the week, Lesson 6  
**Week 7:** 3/4-3/6, Introducing the Dual & Infinitive, Giving reasons  
**Week 8:** 3/11-3/13, High school, a comparison, More on Nominal sentences, Lesson 7  
**Week 9:** 3/25-3/27, On Family & Friends , Cultural aspects of bad news  
**Week 10:** 4/1-4/3, Review and Midterm  
**Week 11:** 4/8-4/10, Parents & decision making, More on Past tense & negation, Lesson 8  
**Week 12:** 4/15-4/17, Roots and Patterns  
**Week 13:** 4/22-4/24, Arabic and American Universities, How the Arabic dictionary is different  
**Week 14:** 4/29-5/1 Review

**Arabic Minor Program (074): The Minor program in Arabic consists of 20 credits, which must be completed with a grade of C or better in each course.**

**Requirements**

The minor in Arabic consists of four courses in Arabic language beyond the elementary level plus two additional courses, 01:013:201 “Crossroads: Classical Literatures of Africa and Asia” and 01:013:221 “Introduction to the Literatures of the Middle East.”

**Learning Objectives**

The objective of the Minor is to develop listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in Modern Standard Arabic to the Intermediate High level, as based on the guidelines of the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

<https://amesall.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/languages/109-arabic>

**Major Program:** The Bachelor of Arts in African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures is open to students admitted to and enrolled in any of the campuses and schools in Rutgers-New Brunswick.

The Major requires the successful completion of at least 33 credit hours, with the first two years of language study/proficiency as a prerequisite.



## **Student Wellness Services**

### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

**(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/**

**<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>**

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

**Crisis Intervention :** <https://health.rutgers.edu/medical-and-counseling-services/counseling-services/crisis-intervention>

**Report a Concern:** <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

### **Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible.