



## INTRODUCTION TO MODERN STANDARD ARABIC (MSA)

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### Course Description and Goals

The Arabic language consists of a number of varieties: Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which is the official language of 26 states and used mainly in written texts and formal settings, and various dialects of colloquial Arabic, one of which is the native language of every Arab. This course teaches the fundamentals of MSA. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the Arabic alphabet, provide a basic vocabulary in MSA, and introduce the rudiments of Arabic grammar.

Students will be trained to acquire the following skills:

1. Familiarity with the Arabic alphabet and reading words in the Arabic script, including all vowels and other added signs.
2. Arabic typing and using online Arabic-English dictionaries.
3. Basic grammar and vocabulary of MSA.
4. Reading and understanding simple sentences.

Emphasis is on basic reading comprehension in MSA.

Each session (two academic hours) will consist of four main elements: (i) A quiz (dictation in the first part of the course, and a vocabulary exam in the second); (ii) Review of the homework; (iii) Learning and practicing elements of the Arabic alphabet (in the first part of the course) and basic aspects of MSA grammar (in the second part of the course); (iv) Using basic vocabulary to form simple expressions and sentences (in the second part of the course).

### Course requirements

- Attendance, quizzes, assignments and class participation
- Midterm exam (the Arabic writing system)
- Final Exam (take-home)

### Grading system

Quizzes	25%
Attendance, homework and class participation	25%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam (take-home)	20%

### Selected References

For students who wish to pursue the course's subject matter further the following textbooks are recommended:

#### The Arabic Alphabet

1. *Easy Arabic Script*, 1st Edition, by Jane Wightwick and Mahmoud Gaafar, McGraw-Hill Education, 2005 (Paperback).  
This book teaches the Arabic alphabet in a way that is quite similar to your course.
2. *Write It in Arabic: A Workbook and Step-by-Step Guide to Writing the Arabic Alphabet*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Naglaa Ghali, Fun with Arabic, 2009 (Paperback and Kindle).  
This book uses a different system to teach the alphabet than your course, but is user-friendly and can be used for review.

#### Basic Grammar

*Easy Arabic Grammar*, 1st Edition, by Jane Wightwick and Mahmoud Gaafar, McGraw-Hill Education, 2005 (Paperback).  
A very useful book, which covers much of the same grammatical material as the course (gender, pronouns, demonstratives, nominal sentences, possession and verbs in the past), although not in the same order. Very useful for review.

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## TAU International Course Guidelines

### Rules and Respectful Behavior

- No cell phones or laptops permitted in class unless approved by instructor for use
- Tardiness to class is not permitted
- As our courses bring together students from many different styles of learning and from a wide variety of home institutions, we ask that students remain respectful to and patient with fellow classmates at all time as some students may be more familiar with certain course material or procedures than others.

### Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests must submit official documentation from their home country / university (translated into English by notary if not already in English) to TAU International ([tauiacademic@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:tauiacademic@tauex.tau.ac.il)) in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs they have. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs they may have. TAU International and its faculty cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU but certainly does the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible that are needed.

### In-class Exams

TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note below if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

### TAU International Absence Policy

Attendance is **mandatory** in all of the courses. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified absences from classes will be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require an official doctor's note sent to the faculty **on the day of the absence**). Such cases of absence should be reported to your lecturer immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence. Please note that according to TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during the semester is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU.

**Students are responsible for reading and adhering to the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times.**