

# INTRODUCTION TO COLLOQUIAL AND MODERN STANDARD ARABIC

Dr. Lior Laks

## Course Description and Goals

Arabic is a diglossic language, for which two varieties exist: Modern Standard Arabic, used mainly in written texts and formal settings, and colloquial Arabic, which refers to the various spoken dialects among Arab countries and communities. This course takes an integrative approach to teaching Arabic, combining both Modern Standard Arabic (hereafter MSA) and colloquial (Palestinian) Arabic (hereafter CA) in order to reflect the use of the language by native speakers. The goal of this course is to instruct students so that they acquire a basic, functional fluency in both speaking dialect and reading in MSA.

## Students will be trained to acquire the following skills:

1. Basic grammar and vocabulary of both MSA and CA. Focus will be on the shared aspects of these two varieties of Arabic, as well as the differences between them.
2. Understanding and actively participating in basic conversations. Emphasis is on communication and on developing proficiency in the language by using it in meaningful contexts: greetings, education, home and family, work, culture and politics. Each week's lessons will consist of three main elements: (i) MSA – letters and vowels, grammar rules, basic vocabulary and short texts (later on) (ii) CA – basic dialogues in different fields. (iii) Summary of the topics learned each week will emphasize the similarities and differences between MSA and CA. Lessons will also include learning proverbs, songs and some explanations about Arabic culture and history.

## Course requirements

- Assignments and class participation (10%)
- Weekly quizzes (oral and written) (15%)
- Final Exam (oral and written) (75%)