

MODERN STANDARD ARABIC (MSA)
Elementary 1
TAU International Study Abroad
Fall Semester 2022

Instructor Contact Information: spisson@gmail.com

Office Hours: available by appointment (email to set up time)

Course Credits: 3 TAU Semester Credits

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

Course Description

The beginning level is designed for students with no prior knowledge of Arabic. The students in this level acquire a knowledge of the Arabic alphabet as well as basic grammar and basic vocabulary in the Arabic language. As part of the course they try listening comprehension in Arabic and are exposed to other types of the written Arabic language such as short Quran Verses, short texts and songs. Conversations based on the vocabulary taught in class and working in groups will help the students improve oral skills.

Learning Outcomes

This course aims to familiarize students with the Alphabet of the Arabic Language, basic Grammar rules and basic vocabulary. By the end of this course, students can expect to be able to read and write short texts in Arabic and interpret sentences related to their everyday life.

Evaluation Criteria

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Attendance, participation, homework	20%
Periodical Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam (Take-home exam)	35%



Absence Policy

Please note the TAU International Absence Policy as outlined on the next page.

Course Schedule:

Week 1-2: An introduction to the Arabic Language, Diglossia in the Arabic language and the Dialects, Colloquial Arabic vs. MSA: the differences and different usage, Consonants and Vowels, other signs.

Until the end of the semester

Week 3: Acquisition of: The Arabic alphabet, basic grammar, basic vocabulary, reading and writing skills.

Grammar: The definite article, The demonstrative article, Verb conjugations: first construction in the Past tense, Negation of verbs in the Past tense, Nouns: masculine and feminine, plural forms.

Syntax: The agreement between verbs and the subject in a sentence, the possessive suffix, Direct object pronouns.

Course Readings

*All the necessary materials will be provided online or in print.

The materials are taken from the following books:

1. R. Avni, *Al-Arabiyya*, published by the Ministry of Education, Israel, 2002, Vol. 1.
2. Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tonsi, *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic*, Part 1, 3rd ed. (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2011).

Instructor Biography

Sarit Pisson was born and raised in Haifa, She completed her Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees at the University of Haifa in the Arabic Language and Literature Department. She worked as Teaching and a Research Assistant in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Haifa from 1999-2004, and started teaching Modern Standard Arabic in the International School in 2009, where she also worked as the director of the Arabic Language program (from 2009-2019).



TAU International Academic Guidelines

Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student's home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. 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 or accommodations they may have. **Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.**

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

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 if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student's responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. 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 including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor's note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

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 official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

Grade Appeals

Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#).

