Intermediate Arabic-Syllabus

This is the third semester of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). The course will help students move from Novice High to Intermediate Middle level. Students will focus on acquiring more vocabulary and more knowledge of the fundamental grammatical and morphological structures in order for them to attain a higher level of comprehending and communicating. By the end of the course, students should have internalized the general principles of word formation, become able to recognize roots and patterns, use the dictionary with ease. Students are expected to improve on their communication skills beyond the simple short sentence format.

Course Requirements

Daily Preparation: Students are expected to be fully prepared for class. This means completing homework and actively participating in class. Students are encouraged to spend at least three to four hours per day on homework and other course related activities. Assignments must be completed by the beginning of following-day class.

Use of Arabic: Students, and the instructor, are to use Arabic all the time, except if there is a real and genuine need to explain some difficult concepts. The first portion of the day (9:15AM – 11:15AM) will be dedicated to the introduction of new material, while the second portion (afternoon) will be devoted to applying vocabulary, concepts and to conversation. Both sessions may include listening exercises.

Daily Preparation, Homework, Quizzes and Exams

Attendance: Regular class attendance and active participation are required. It is essential that students come properly prepared to each and every class by completing whatever work is required. Over the course of the semester, students will have:
(a) daily assignments (some are individual, and will be graded on that basis, while others are group assignments. Group membership may change every now and then);
(b) one mid-week quiz (20 minutes, to review basics), and one end-of-the-week exam every Friday (two hours);
(c) one comprehensive mid-term examination to be held on Friday of the 4th week, and,
(d) one final examination to be held at the end of the fourth week. This has two components: written and oral. The written will cover the vocabulary and structures, reading and listening comprehension. For the oral, choose a topic by the end of the second week, and start submitting notes on the topic every two days (this is not the journal). By the end of the semester these should add up to a written typed double-spaced four-page essay to be presented during the final week of classes. However, you could only use notes to deliver a 25-30 minute presentation (including questions and answers). The presentation should be from notes- no memorization, and no reading. You have to use visual aids (PowerPoint).

In-Class Participation

Since much of the curriculum is built around activities conducted exclusively during class time (such as the listening, reading and speaking components of the course), active and enthusiastic participation in class is an absolute requirement for all students. Students should come to class each day well prepared and ready to take an active role.

Journals

Starting the second week of classes each student will be required to write a weekly journal entry (a total of six during the course of the program) in order for all to be able to assess their language progress. The instructor will assign specific topics. Students are expected to incorporate into their journals new vocabulary and grammatical structures learned in class during the preceding weeks. By the end of the semester, students should be able to see the progress that they have made in their language ability.

Required Texts

4- Handouts from instructor from various sources: Articles from Arabic newspapers and magazines, Arabic videos, short stories, and/or poetry. Miscellaneous supplementary materials, drills, and assignments to be handed out in class.
Papers:
http://www.asharqalawsat.com/
http://www.ahram.org.eg/
http://www.alhayat.com/
http://www.annahar.com/
http://www.alkhaleej.co.ae/

Websites:
http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,2142,613,00.html
http://www.rtarabic.com/
http://www.un.org
http://www.relavista.com/
http://www.alhurra.com/
http://islamandme.wordpress.com/documentary-of-islam/
http://arabic.cnn.com/
http://www.alarabiya.net/
http://www.elaph.com
http://english.aljazeera.net/
http://www.aljazeera.net
http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org/Visit-the-Museum.id.5.htm
http://www.arabfriendz.com/videos/id