

## Survival Language Skills in Arabic Countries (Intermediate Low)

**Spring 2014**

أهلا وسهلا ومرحبا بكم من جديد الى اللغة العربية

Monterey Institute of International Studies  
Arabic Studies Program  
ARLA 8228A: Arabic Speaking Countries in Depth  
Spring 2014

**Instructor:** Abdelkader Berrahmoun

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Office Hours: 12 noon to 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

Class Schedule: 2:00 pm-3:50 pm on Monday, Wednesday at MRSE B109

10:00am-11:50am on Friday at MRSE B109

Classroom: MRSE B109

### **Important Dates:**

- Spring Break: March 15-23
- Collaborative Survival Guide project due on May 12
- Last day of classes: May 14

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### **Class Description**

This course will give students practical tools to explore, understand, and survive in Arabic-speaking countries. The content-based course themes and activities focus on building effective communicative skills needed to:

- function in essential aspects of daily life
- obtain and provide information required for administrative or other important transactions
- participate in social situations
- navigate in unfamiliar settings
- become acclimated to cultural norms and values in the Arab world

Throughout the course, students will be exposed to a variety of authentic materials related to daily living in Arabic-speaking countries.

## Learning goals

Students will be able to:

- Apply Arabic language skills to practical and essential daily-life situations in Arabic speaking countries
- Significantly increase and apply vocabulary associated with class themes
- Gain fluency in the four fundamental skill areas (reading, writing, speaking, listening), with particular emphasis on functional competency in speaking and writing
- Learn, apply and demonstrate progress in the mastery of complex grammatical structures, in thematic compositions and in oral language practice
- Engage in progressively complex conversations in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and relevant colloquial expressions, showing increased communicative proficiency
- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of Arabic cultural conventions

## Course Themes

The following 6 themes, settings, and sample subtopics will provide context for studies in *Survival Language Skills in Arabic Countries (8228A)*

- Travel and transportation (forms of transportation, reading schedules and maps, booking a trip)
- Tourism and sightseeing (hotel accommodations, tours, places of interest, recreational activities)
- Banking (currency, currency exchange, opening a bank account, banking forms and paperwork)
- Renting a dwelling (types of habitation, locations, rental agreements)
- Eating and dining (food shopping, cooking, dining out – ordering and protocols)
- At the hospital (common ailments, intake procedures, paperwork)

## Bi-weekly Assignments (ongoing throughout the semester)

**Thematic Skits:** Working with a partner in class, students will develop, script, and present a short skit (4-5 minutes in length) that illustrates some aspect of the current theme of study.

### **Skit Expectations:**

- Skits should **incorporate a minimum of 10 vocabulary words**.
- Each student is responsible for writing his/her own portion of the dialogue
- Skits should introduce a challenge or problem that serves as a focal point for a realistic story (Example: missing baggage, delayed flight, etc.). Creativity and humor are encouraged!
- Students are encouraged to use props
- Students may project an image on the classroom screen to represent the skit setting. Images can be found on the Google Image search or other sources.

**Bi-weekly journal:** Students will draft, edit, and submit a bi-weekly 1 page written assignment. This is a first-person imaginary journal entry based on the current theme. The project will be discussed further in class.

**Journal Expectations:**

- double-spaced, size 12 font .5 inch (half-inch) margin
- Incorporate at least 10 words of the current thematic vocabulary
- Incorporate any grammatical concepts introduced in class

**Projects**

Two projects are assigned: a Video Podcast and a Collaborative Survival Guide. These projects require students to integrate and synthesize course learning in a presentation format. The projects will draw upon prior activities, vocabulary, grammatical concepts, and content-based learning on our 6 course themes.

**Video Podcast:** During the course of the semester, student partners will be expected to choose **one** of their skits from among the 6 course themes. The chosen skit will be elaborated upon and developed into a video podcast.

**Video Podcast Expectations:**

- Memorize the skit dialogue
- Incorporate props, background, music, etc.
- Each partner will prepare/present a short oral introduction to the skit (describing the characters, theme, where the scene takes place, etc.)
- Include a title and names of participating students
- Videotape the skit

**Collaborative Survival Guide:** Each student will contribute a written work (1 page minimum) based on **one** of the 6 course themes. The writing will offer survival tips, "Things to Know," cultural information, and lessons learned about selected aspects of living in an Arab country. Additionally, each student will research and prepare 1 page of images corresponding to the chosen theme. Students will write a caption for each image.

The individual writing assignments and captioned images from this project will be compiled and bound into a collaborative, student-created Survival Guide. All students will receive a bound copy of this collaborative work.

**Collaborative Survival Guide Expectations:**

- Students need prior approval of their thematic topic by the Professor.
- The completed Survival Guide will represent all themes covered in class.

## General Course Expectations

- Speak ONLY in Arabic
- Maintain a binder with unit theme vocabulary, and a personal dictionary of words and phrases used in writing. Bring the binder to each class.
- Participate fully in class discussions and project work.
- Regular attendance is crucial to learning!

## Assessment

Students will receive written rubrics for each of the bi-weekly assignments and the projects. We will review all rubrics in class.

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## Important Notes:

- All assignments must be written in Arabic and should be handed in at the beginning of class session
- You are allowed two excused absences (i.e. sickness or other emergency circumstances). Two points will be taken from the total grade points for each absence without the instructor's permission. Please inform your professor of absence as soon as possible before--not after--the class you will miss.
- Use of electronic devices is not permitted in class unless it is related to class activities and tasks (i.e. presentation). This requires the instructor's permission.
- Please switch off your cell phone during class time.

## Active participation

- **Use of Arabic:** The language of instruction and interaction in class is Arabic. English is not used in class or with the teacher outside class.
- Attend regularly as absence affects both absence and participation grades
- Show evidence of preparation of materials prior to class session
- Initiate talking and lead discussions on the assigned class materials and topics
- Respond to the instructors' questions on the content of the materials
- Participate fully and actively in all class activities and tasks (i.e. pair and group work)
- Engage in discussion with classmates and guest speakers

## Grading Guidelines

Class participation (see absence policy below)

15 %

Homework assignments	15 %
Short quizzes	15 %
Thematic Skits	15%
Bi-Weekly Journals	15 %
Video Podcast	10%
Collaborative Survival Guide (Final Exam)	15 %

### Grade distribution

A = 4.0 = 96 – 100

A- = 3.67 = 92 – 95

B+ = 3.33 = 88 – 91

B = 3.0 = 83 – 87

B- = 2.67 = 78 – 82

C+ = 2.33 = 73 – 77

C = 2.0 = 69 – 72

C- = 1.67 = 64 – 68

D = 1.00 = 60 – 63

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## ARLA 8228A – Survival Language Skills in Arabic Countries HOMEWORK SCHEDULE – SPRING 2014

\*Disclaimer: This schedule is subject to change. Please note changes posted via e-mail or announced in class.

CLASS DATE	CLASS ACTIVITIES	UNIT	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/DUE DATE
Mon. 1/27	Review from previous semester		Intro to class and review
Wed. 1/29	Discuss syllabus  Review		General review from previous semester
Fri. 1/31	Review with TA		No homework
Mon. 2/3	<b>Vocabulary:</b> Introduce and practice new unit vocab.  Write 10 short sentences using a minimum of 15 new vocabulary words  <b>Grammar</b>  <b>Skits:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles (15 min.)	Unit 1:  Travel &  Transportation	<b>Due on Wed. 2/5:</b>  Ex 2 in Unit 1 packet
Wed. 2/5	<b>Vocabulary:</b> review  <b>Writing:</b> Begin 1 <sup>st</sup> person journal entry based on unit topic (40 mins.)  <b>Skits:</b> Partners develop skit and write dialogue (40 mins.)	1	<b>Due on Fri. 2/7:</b>  Ex. 3 in packet  #s 5 – 8 only
Fri. 2/7	<b>Review with TA:</b>  <b>Vocabulary</b>  <b>Grammar</b>	1	<b>Due on Mon. 2/10:</b>  Ex. 6 in packet
Mon. 2/10	<b>Reading and listening:</b> exercises  <b>Writing:</b> Work on final draft of	1	<b>Due on Wed. 2/12:</b>  Practice individual lines of skit for

	journal entry <b>Skits:</b> Rehearse for presentation on Wed.		performance Final draft of bi-weekly journal – typed as described in syllabus
Wed. 2/12	<b>Skits:</b> Presentation <b>Writing:</b> Final draft of bi-weekly journal submitted and posted on Arabic blog; review in class	1	<b>Due on Fri. 2/14:</b> Review Unit 1 in prep for quiz
Fri. 2/14	<b>Review:</b> Unit 1 with TA <b>Quiz:</b> on vocabulary and grammar	1	No homework

CLASS DATE	CLASS ACTIVITIES	UNIT	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/DUE DATE
Mon. 2/17	<b>Vocabulary:</b> Introduce and practice new unit vocab. Write 10 short sentences using a minimum of 15 new vocabulary words <b>Grammar</b> <b>Skits:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles (15 min.)	Unit 2: Renting an apartment	<b>Due on Wed. 2/19:</b> Ex 2 in Unit 2 packet #s 1 – 9 only Ex 3 in Unit 2 packet #s 5 – 7 only
Wed. 2/19	<b>Vocabulary:</b> review <b>Writing:</b> Begin 1 <sup>st</sup> person journal entry based on unit topic (40 mins.) <b>Skits:</b> Partners develop skit and write dialogue (40 mins.)	2	<b>Due on Fri. 2/21:</b> Finish Ex. 2 in packet #s 10 – 18
Fri. 2/21	<b>Review with TA:</b>	2	<b>Due on Mon. 2/24:</b> Ex. 4 in packet

	Vocabulary Grammar		
Mon. 2/24	<b>Reading and listening:</b> exercises <b>Writing:</b> Work on final draft of journal entry <b>Skits:</b> Rehearse for presentation on Wed.	2	<b>Due on Wed. 2/26:</b> Practice individual lines of skit for performance Final draft of bi-weekly journal – typed as described in syllabus
Wed. 2/26	<b>Skits:</b> Presentation <b>Writing:</b> Final draft of bi-weekly journal submitted and posted on Arabic blog; review in class	2	<b>Due on Fri. 2/28:</b> Review Unit 2 in prep for quiz
Fri. 2/28	<b>Review:</b> Unit 2 with TA <b>Quiz:</b> on vocabulary and grammar	2	No homework

CLASS DATE	CLASS ACTIVITIES	UNIT	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/DUE DATE
Mon. 3/3	<b>Vocabulary:</b> Introduce and practice new unit vocab. Write 10 short sentences using a minimum of 15 new vocabulary words <b>Grammar</b> <b>Skits:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles (15 min.)	Unit 3: At the restaurant	<b>Due on Wed. 3/5:</b> Ex 2 in Unit 3 packet #s 1 – 12 only Ex 3 in Unit 2 packet

Wed. 3/5	<p><b>Vocabulary:</b> review</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Begin 1<sup>st</sup> person journal entry based on unit topic (40 mins.)</p> <p><b>Skits:</b> Partners develop skit and write dialogue (40 mins.)</p>	3	<p><b>Due on Fri. 3/7:</b></p> <p>Finish Ex. 2 in packet</p> <p>#s 13 – 23</p>
Fri. 3/7	<p><b>Review with TA:</b></p> <p>Vocabulary</p> <p>Grammar</p>	3	<p><b>Due on Mon. 3/10:</b></p> <p>Ex. 4 in packet</p>
Mon. 3/10	<p><b>Reading and listening:</b> exercises</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Work on final draft of journal entry</p> <p><b>Skits:</b> Rehearse for presentation on Wed.</p>	3	<p><b>Due on Wed. 3/12:</b></p> <p>Practice individual lines of skit for performance</p> <p>Final draft of bi-weekly journal – typed as described in syllabus</p>
Wed. 3/12	<p><b>Skits:</b> Presentation</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Final draft of bi-weekly journal submitted and posted on Arabic blog; review in class</p>	3	<p><b>Due on Fri. 3/14:</b></p> <p>Review Unit 2 in prep for quiz</p>
Fri. 3/14	<p><b>Review:</b> Unit 3 with TA</p> <p><b>Quiz:</b> on vocabulary and grammar</p>	4 Shopping	No homework

<b>CLASS DATE</b>	<b>CLASS ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/DUE DATE</b>
Mon. 3/24	<b>Attend Arabic lecture</b>	Unit 4: Shopping	<b>Due on Wed. 3/26:</b> Ex 2 in Unit 4 packet #s 1 – 12 only
Wed. 3/26	<b>Vocabulary:</b> Introduce and practice new unit vocab. <b>Grammar</b> <b>Writing:</b> Begin 1 <sup>st</sup> person journal entry based on unit topic (40 mins.) <b>Skits:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles, develop skit and write dialogue (40 mins.)	4	<b>Due on Fri. 3/28:</b> Finish Ex. 2 in packet #s 13 – 22
Fri. 3/28	<b>Review with TA:</b> Vocabulary Grammar	4	<b>Due on Mon. 3/31:</b> Ex. 4 in packet
Mon. 3/31	<b>Reading and listening:</b> exercises <b>Writing:</b> Work on final draft of journal entry <b>Skits:</b> Rehearse for presentation on Wed.	4	<b>Due on Wed. 4/2:</b> Practice individual lines of skit for performance Final draft of bi-weekly journal – typed as described in “guidelines”
Wed. 4/2	<b>Skits:</b> Presentation <b>Writing:</b> Final draft of bi-weekly journal submitted and posted on Arabic blog; review in class	4	<b>Due on Fri. 4/4:</b> Review Unit 4 in prep for quiz

Fri. 4/4	<b>Review:</b> Unit 4 with TA <b>Quiz:</b> on vocabulary and grammar	5 Banking	No homework
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CLASS DATE	CLASS ACTIVITIES	UNIT	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/DUE DATE
Mon. 4/7	<b>Vocabulary:</b> Introduce and practice new unit vocab. <b>Grammar</b> <b>Skits:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles (15 min.)	Unit 5: Banking	<b>Due on Wed. 4/9:</b> Ex 3 in Unit 5 packet #s 1 – 12 only
Wed. 4/9	<b>Vocabulary:</b> review <b>Writing:</b> Begin 1 <sup>st</sup> person journal entry based on unit topic (40 mins.) <b>Skits:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles, develop skit and write dialogue (40 mins.)	5	<b>Due on Fri. 4/11:</b> Finish Ex. 3 in packet #s 13 – 25
Fri. 4/11	<b>Review with TA:</b> Vocabulary Grammar	5	<b>Due on Mon. 4/14:</b> Ex. 5 in packet
Mon. 4/14	<b>Reading and listening:</b> exercises <b>Writing:</b> Work on final draft of journal entry <b>Skits:</b> Rehearse for presentation on Wed.	5	<b>Due on Wed. 4/16:</b> Practice individual lines of skit for performance Final draft of bi-weekly journal – typed as described in “guidelines”
Wed. 4/16	<b>Skits:</b> Presentation <b>Writing:</b> Final draft of bi-weekly journal submitted and posted on	5	<b>Due on Fri. 4/18:</b> Review Unit 5 in prep for quiz

	Arabic blog; review in class		
Fri. 4/18	<b>Review:</b> Unit 5 with TA <b>Quiz:</b> on vocabulary and grammar	6 At the hospital	No homework

CLASS DATE	CLASS ACTIVITIES	UNIT	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/DUE DATE
Mon. 4/21	<b>Vocabulary:</b> Introduce and practice new unit vocab. <b>Grammar</b> <b>Skits and Video Podcast projects:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles (30 min.)	Unit 6: Accident and hospital	<b>Due on Wed. 4/23:</b> Ex 2 in Unit 6 packet #s 1 – 12 only Ex 3 (b & c only)
Wed. 4/23	<b>Vocabulary:</b> review <b>Writing:</b> Begin 1 <sup>st</sup> person journal entry based on unit topic (40 mins.) <b>Skits:</b> Partners meet to decide on scenario and roles, develop skit and write dialogue (40 mins.)	6	<b>Due on Fri. 4/25:</b> Finish Ex. 2 in packet #s 13 – 24
Fri. 4/25	<b>Review with TA:</b> Vocabulary Grammar	6	<b>Due on Mon. 4/28:</b> Ex. 4 in packet First draft of video podcast due
Mon. 4/28	<b>Reading and listening:</b> exercises <b>Writing:</b> Work on final draft of journal entry <b>Skits:</b> Rehearse for presentation	6	<b>Due on Wed. 4/30:</b> Practice individual lines of skit for performance Final draft of bi-weekly journal – typed as

	on Wed. First draft of video podcast due		described in "guidelines"
Wed. 4/30	<b>Skits:</b> Presentation <b>Writing:</b> Final draft of bi-weekly journal submitted and posted on Arabic blog; review in class	6	<b>Due on Fri. 5/2:</b> Review Unit 6 in prep for quiz Final draft of video podcast, and posting on Arabic blog due
Fri. 5/2	<b>Review:</b> Unit 6 with TA <b>Quiz:</b> on vocabulary and grammar Final draft of video podcast, and posting on Arabic blog due		No homework Prepare for Final