

Binghamton University – SUNY

Department of Classical & Near Eastern Studies

ARAB 281E: Intro to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic

مقدمة إلى العامية المصرية

Spring 2017

اللي يشرب من النيل لازم يرجع له تاني

Once you drink from the Nile, you are destined to return.

- Egyptian proverb

Scheduled meeting times: TR 10:05-11:30

Location: SW 106

Instructor: Dr. Omid Ghaemmaghami

Office: LT (Library Tower) 512

Office Hours: Visit <https://ghaemmaghami.youcanbook.me> to make an appointment

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📖 Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the vernacular of Arabic used in Egypt, for students who have completed at least three semesters of training in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA) is not only the native language of over 92 million people, it is also the most widely understood spoken variety of Arabic, due in large measure to Egypt's geographic location, its social and political influence, and the proliferation and popularity of Egyptian cinema, music, and literature throughout the Arab world since the early part of the twentieth century. Students will acquire basic conversational skills in the Cairene dialect of ECA—specifically in the two levels defined by the renowned linguist, El-Said Badawi, as the colloquial of the highly-educated (*‘āmmiyyat al-muthaqqafīn*) and the colloquial of the “enlightened” (*‘āmmiyyat al-mutanawwirīn*)—with an eye to future travel to Egypt. By the end of the course, students will be able to greet others and initiate conversations; introduce and speak about themselves, their lives, their daily routines and their environments in general

terms; express their likes and dislikes and their plans for the future; and understand aspects of Egyptian culture connected to daily life, including culturally significant idioms, adjectives and proverbs used among friends and acquaintances. Significant attention will be directed to highlighting and exploring phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic differences and similarities between MSA and ECA. Class time will mainly be devoted to activating vocabulary and grammar learned at home, by means of an assortment of drills and exercises. In addition to the textbooks, students will experience the language through a variety of media, including movie scenes, music videos, songs and advertisements.

SUNY Learning Outcomes for General Education Requirements

Students who satisfy the Foreign Language requirement will demonstrate:

1. Basic proficiency in the understanding and use of a foreign language.
2. Knowledge of the distinctive features of cultures(s) associated with the languages they are studying.

Course Materials

Required:

(1) Mustafa Mughazy, *Dardasha Egyptian Arabic* (Madison: NALRC Press, 2004).

Available used from campus bookstore.

(2) Audio files for *Dardasha Egyptian Arabic*. Download at the following link:

http://bit.ly/Dardasha_Audio_Files.

(3) Abbas al-Tonsi, Laila al-Sawi, and Suzanne Massoud, *Kalaam Gamiil: An Intensive Course in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Volume 1*, Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2010. Available at the campus bookstore.

(4) Handouts and links to an assortment of material to be posted on the weekly schedule and used in class.

Recommended:

(1) Kamal Al Ekhawwy and Jamal Ali, *'Arabi Liblib: Proverbs* (Cairo: AUC Press, 2011).

(2) Kamal Al Ekhawwy and Jamal 'Ali, *'Arabi Liblib: Idioms and Other Expressions* (Cairo: AUC Press, 2011).

Requirements

Attendance: Students must attend all classes throughout the semester and arrive to class on time. Class attendance and active participation essential to success in this course. **Two unexcused absences or tardy arrivals results in one-half a letter grade being deducted from your final course grade. An additional half a percentage is then deducted for every subsequent absence.** Thus, for example, if a student receives 90% for her/his final grade but has missed two classes, the final grade will be lowered to 89.5%. If a student misses a class, it is her/his responsibility to catch up with the class assignments. Students must not leave class early unless there are dire circumstances or they have received prior permission from the instructor.

Participation: Students must come to each class prepared to participate fully in class activities. Preparation includes listening to completing all assigned drills and exercises and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures so that you can actively practice using them in class. Class time is a laboratory to test and activate the learning and preparation you have done outside of the classroom. Class participation will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) evidence of preparation of materials prior to class; (2) readiness to respond to the instructors' questions on the content of the materials; (3) full and active participation in all class activities and tasks; (4) cooperation and respect for classmates in carrying out group activities. **Note: Cell phones may not be used in class. Texting or emailing during class time are not permitted. Your participation grade will be adversely affected if you use a cell phone for any reason. Laptops may only be used for class-related work with the permission of the instructor.**

Homework: This course is a 4-credit course, which means that in addition to the scheduled lectures/discussions, students are expected to spend at least 9.5 hours of time on course-related work (homework, material review, and preparation for the following class) each week. Homework will be assigned every Tuesday and Thursday. The instructor will occasionally collect homework during the course of the semester *at the beginning of class*. The days on which homework will be collected will *not* be announced

in advance. *Late assignments will not be accepted unless the student has a valid excuse.* It is important to follow up on any special instructor comments on your homework, and it is your responsibility to come to office hours or make an appointment to see the instructor when needed.

Oral Presentations: Each student will be expected to make two oral presentations. Details will be posted on Blackboard.


*The instructor will communicate with students outside of class via Blackboard and email.
It is imperative that all students regularly check their Blackboard and BU email accounts.*

Assessment

- 30% Preparation, attendance and active participation
- 20% Homework assignments (collected occasionally)
- 30% 3 quizzes (10% each)
- 20% 2 oral presentations (10% each)

Letter Grading Scale

A	93%-100%	C+	77%-79.99%
A-	90%-92.99%	C	73%-76.99%
B+	87%-89.99%	C-	70%-72.99%
B	83%-86.99%	D	60%-69.99%
B-	80-82.99%	F	59.99% and below

 **Tentative Weekly Schedule:** The following schedule is subject to necessary changes and amendments at the instructor's discretion. A detailed weekly schedule with pages, drills, class activities, and precise homework requirements will be posted every Friday to Blackboard for the following week.

Week 1 (beginning January 17): Introduction; Dardasha, Lesson 1

Week 2 (beginning January 24): Dardasha, Lessons 1-2
January 27: Course add/drop/delete deadline

Week 3 (beginning January 31): Dardasha, Lesson 2

Week 4 (beginning February 7): Dardasha, Lesson 3

Week 5 (beginning February 14): Dardasha, Lessons 3-4
Quiz # 1

Week 6 (beginning February 21): Dardasha, Lesson 4

Week 7 (beginning February 28): Dardasha, Lesson 5
Oral Presentation # 1

Week 8 (beginning March 7): Dardasha, Lesson 5
Note: No class on Tuesday this week (Winter Break)

Week 9 (beginning March 14): Lesson 6

Week 10 (beginning March 21): Dardasha, Lessons 6-7
Quiz # 2

March 24: Course withdraw (with a "w")/change grade option deadline; last day for seniors to submit an application for degree for Spring 2017

Week 11: (beginning March 28): Dardasha, Lesson 7

Week 12 (beginning April 4): Dardasha, Lesson 8

Week 13 (beginning April 11): Spring Break

Week 14 (beginning April 18): Dardasha, Lesson 8

Week 15 (beginning April 25): Dardasha, Lesson 9

Week 16 (beginning May 2): Dardasha, Lessons 9-10

Quiz #3

Week 17 (beginning May 9): Dardasha, Lesson 10

Note: Tuesday this week is the last day of classes

****The second oral presentation will be made at the time of the final exam.**

Information on the place and time of the final exam will be provided at a later time**

⊠ **Academic Honesty:** As signatories to the Binghamton University Academic Honesty Code, and indeed simply as good scholars and citizens, you are required to uphold academic honesty in all aspects of this course. You may find the Student Academic Honesty Code at the following website: <<http://goo.gl/XDDYJ7>>.

⊠ **Disability-related Equal Access Accommodations:** Students wishing to request academic accommodations to insure their equitable access and participation in this course should notify the instructor by the second week of class. Authorizations from Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are generally required. We encourage you to contact SSD at (607) 777-2686 to schedule an appointment with the Director or Learning Disabilities Specialist. Their website (www.binghamton.edu/ssd) includes information regarding their Disability Documentation Guidelines. The office is located in University Union, room 119.