

Huron at Western
Faculty of Theology

Arabic 3260B – Readings from the Quran
Course Outline – Winter 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Dr. Yahya Kharrat

Email: ykharrat@uwo.ca (I reply emails within 24 hours Monday to Friday)

Class Time: Tuesday 9:30 - 12:00 pm, Room: A1, Huron

My office hours are by appointment only. I can talk to you over the phone to answer any questions or hold one-on-one Zoom to discuss topics that may need further clarification. I will be available to meet with you in person if permissible. You must book your appointment in advance to avoid lineups in the hallway.

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

INTRODUCTION

Apart from being the native language of over 300 million speakers dispersed across Northern Africa and throughout the Middle East, Arabic is widely used by 1.3 billion Muslims throughout the world. It belongs to the Semitic family of languages, which also includes Amharic, Hebrew and Aramaic. Many linguists make a distinction between Classical Arabic, the name of the literary language of the pre-Islamic and early Islamic eras, and contemporary Arabic commonly known as Modern Standard Arabic or MSA named Fus-ha.

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the last divine scripture revealed to Prophet Muhammad in Arabic. This unique literary form is replete with rich linguistic features of eloquence and diction that make it inimitable. According to the Qur'an, God challenged humankind to produce even a verse similar to it: *"If you are in doubt of what We have revealed to Our messenger, then produce one chapter like it."* Qur'an 2:23.

Course Description and Goals:

Qur'anic Arabic 3260B/5260B *Readings from the Qur'an* is a study in classical Arabic. Its main focus is the vocabulary frequently encountered in the Qur'an. The course objective is to equip the student with the skills necessary to understand the grammar, vocabulary, and syntactical and morphological structure of the Qur'an.

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to master an array of key lexical features found in the Qur'an, and should also possess good control of the Arabic syntax and morphology of the Qur'an. This will enable the student to read, write and translate Qur'anic passages of various levels of difficulty and complexity.

Prerequisites:

- Intermediate Quranic Arabic 2080A(or equivalent). Please contact your instructor if you are unsure of your level.

Textbook:

1. Required Text:

- Yahya Kharrat, *Advanced Arabic and its Application to Quranic Texts*. Western University, 2022.

2. Recommended Texts:

- Tafsir al-Jalalayn Jalal al-Din al-Mahalli and Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti.
- Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic, Hans Wehr

STUDENT EVALUATION:

The mark distribution is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Test | 20% |
| Engagement | 10% |
| Assignment | 10% |
| Vocab Quiz | 10% |
| Presentation | 5% |
| Dictation | 10% |
| Oral Assessment | 5% |
| Final exam | 30% |

Notes about Evaluation

- **Test:** There will be two tests in this course. They will focus on the most recent material covered. Each test is worth 10% of your final grade. The total is 20%
- **Presentation:** Throughout the course, every student will deliver a 10-minute presentation on a selected Quranic topic. A variety of topics will be suggested by the professor, who will approve the chosen topic before the presentation. The presentation is worth 5% of the final grade.
- **Assignment:** There will be one major assignment during the term. Completion of the assignment requires that students apply the vocabulary words and grammar rules studied in class. The assignment is worth 10% of the final grade.
- **Dictations:** There will be two dictations during the term. The first dictation will come from a certain lesson of the textbook, and the second dictation will come from a certain Quranic chapter. Each dictation is worth 5% of the final grade. The total is 10%.
- **Engagement:** Students are required to participate actively in online lectures. They must engage with their professor during class discussions (see policies and procedures below). Engagement is worth 10% of the final grade.
- **Vocabulary quiz:** In each lecture, new vocabulary words based on the Quranic text covered in class will be presented to students and it is the students' responsibility to memorize them. There will be two vocabulary quizzes administered by the instructor. Each quiz is worth 5% of the final grade. The total is 10%.
- **Oral Assessment:** The instructor will meet virtually with each student individually and test them orally on topics covered throughout the term. The oral assessment will take about 10-15 minutes. This is worth 10% of the final grade.
- **Final Exam:** There will be one cumulative final exam that will cover the entire textbook. This is worth 30% of the final grade.

Tentative Schedule

| Month | Day | Topic | Notes |
|---------------------------|-----|---|--------------------------|
| January 2022 (ZOOM) | 11 | Surah Al-Baqarah, 261-263. Praising the Spending of Money. | |
| | 18 | Surah Al-Nisa' 58-59. Directives Emphasized in the Qur'an. | |
| | 25 | Surah Al-Mai'dah. A Call for Discernment. | |
| February | 1 | Surah Yunus. People are of Two Types. | <i>Dictation#1</i> |
| | 8 | Surah Al-Nahl. Selections of Quranic Values. | Test #1 |
| | 15 | Surah Al-Isra', 34-38. Morals Honoured in the Qur'an. | <i>Vocab Quiz#1</i> |
| | 22 | READING WEEK (Feb. 20-27) | |
| March | 1 | Surah Al-Hajj, 5. The Greatness of God in the Creation of Human Beings. | <i>Assignment #1 due</i> |
| | 8 | Surah Al-Furqan, 67-71. Commendable Traits of the Believers. | <i>Vocab Quiz#2</i> |
| | 15 | Surah Yasin, 224-227. Revival of Human Beings After Death. | Test #2 |
| | 22 | Surah Al-Ahqaf, 23-26. Duties Owed to Parents. | <i>Dictation#2</i> |
| | 29 | Oral Assessment | <i>Presentations end</i> |
| April | 5 | Review for the Final | |

ADDING / DROPPING COURSES:

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>. You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

ASSESSMENTS:

Most of the assessments in this course will be done in the **one-hour assessment** (see class format) every week. Students will be asked to communicate with the professor one-on-one or form a discussion in groups regards to a specific topic all in Arabic. Students will also be asked to do Arabic presentations about a prepared topic (the topics will be informed beforehand).

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students are expected to attend class on ZOOM regularly. Active engagement in class is essential to this course. Grades are not given for mere attendance but for your participation, your contribution to the class, and for showing progress. All absences will affect the engagement grade.

Students must be ready and connected to zoom before the class starts and stay until the end of the class. Arriving late can disrupt the class, as well as leaving early. If a student arrives late or leaves early three times, that will be counted as an absence.

Please be aware of the following university regulation: Because attendance is so important in language courses, any student who, in the opinion of the course instructor, is absent too frequently from class, will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). With the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course (Please read the following link carefully:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>

| Grade | Criteria for Engagements |
|-------|---|
| 0-2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recurring absence and very poor attendance and if attending, the person displays very disruptive behavior. ● Never/barely responds to questions. Never completes questions assigned for homework. ● Does not respect the learning space for the other students. ● Does not participate in class activities. ● Fails to respond to questions correctly. |
| 3-4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attends occasionally but is never disruptive or late. ● Tries to respond when called upon but does not offer very much. ● Barely knows the answers to the questions asked. ● Demonstrates very infrequent involvement in the class. |
| 5-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates adequate preparation and knows the basics of the matter assigned. ● Responds to the questions being asked somewhat well. ● Contributes to a moderate degree when called upon. ● Demonstrates sporadic involvement and shows enthusiasm. |
| 7-8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates good preparation, knows the topic and has prepared for it in class. ● Responds well to the questions being asked. ● Contributes well to class discussion in an ongoing way. ● Responds to other students' point and thinks through their own, questions others in a constructive way, offers and supports suggestions. ● Demonstrates consistent ongoing involvement in the class. |
| 9-10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates excellent preparation. ● Responds exceptionally well to the questions being asked. ● Contributes in a very significant way to ongoing discussion, responds very thoughtfully to other students' comments. ● Demonstrates ongoing and very active involvement. ● Is never absent and/or late. |