Intermediate Arabic (second semester) – LG-651
Prof. Steven Blackburn – 860-509-9560 (o); sblackburn@hartsem.edu
Spring 2014: 4:30 – 6:00pm, Mondays and Wednesdays
Office Hours (in the Library) Wednesdays 10am till Noon; Thursdays Noon till 2pm

Textbook:  Al-Kitaab fii ta’allum al-‘arabiyya I by Brustad et al
           Al-Kitaab fii ta’allum al-‘arabiyya II by Brustad et al
Dictionary: A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (Wehr), edited by J M. Cowan
            (recommended but not required)

During this semester we will begin by retracing some of the final steps covered in LG-650 before continuing work in Egyptian Colloquial and Modern Standard Arabic.

Vocabulary Quizzes, one per unit, will cumulatively account for 25% of the grade. A mid-term exam will come to 25%, while the Final Exam will also count for 25% of the semester’s grade. The remaining 25% will be based on attendance and class participation.

Learning Goals: By the end of the term, successful students will be able to
- Distinguish among, and use, various registers of spoken Arabic in conversation
- Compose brief essays in Standard Arabic on a variety of topics encountered in the text during the term
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the various cultures of the Arab world

Attendance Policy: We meet only twice per week for 90 minutes per session. Missing the equivalent of six 90-minute sessions (three weeks’ worth of classes) will automatically result in a failure to pass. Please be in touch with the Professor in order to make up any missed work if you know in advance that you will not be able to attend a particular session.

NB: When learning a language, it is (infinitely?) better to work a little each day than to cram on weekends or over large chunks of time. In other words, an hour each day of review and preparation during the week is to be preferred over spending the entirety of a Saturday or Sunday trying to catch-up.

Also, in learning a language, it is better to use your out-of-class time to work on material that has already been presented in class, rather than to “work ahead”. Working ahead risks internalizing faulty linguistic input, since this is NOT a “teach yourself” course.

As you already know, “I’m not here to hand out bad grades” is one of my mottos. Every effort will be made to keep everyone up to speed, that being one of the luxuries of having a small class.

Most importantly: HAVE FUN! Even though you’ve learned by this point that Arabic is NOT an easy language, it CAN be enjoyable. I’ll continue trying to make it that way; if you work, there is that much more chance of making it that way for yourself.
Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, January 22: Review of Unit 16 of *al-Kitaab I*

Week of January 27: Vocabulary Quiz, Introduction to Unit 17

Week of February 3: Completion of Unit 17

Week of February 10: Vocabulary Quiz, Introduction to Unit 18

Week of February 17: Completion of Unit 18

Week of February 24: Vocabulary Quiz, Introduction to Unit 19

Week of March 3: Completion of Unit 19

Week of March 10: Vocabulary Quiz, Introduction to Unit 20

Week of March 17: Completion of Unit 20

Week of March 24: Review of Units 17-20, Mid-Term Exam on Units 17-20

Week of March 31: Vocabulary Quiz, Introduction to Unit 1, *al-Kitaab II*

Week of April 7: Continuation of Unit 1

Week of April 14: Completion of Unit 1, and Reading Day

Week of April 21: Vocabulary Quiz, Introduction to Unit 2

Week of April 28: Continuation of Unit 2

May 5: Final Exam on Units 1 and 2

Plagiarism Notice: The failure to give proper credit for the words and ideas of another person, whether published or unpublished, will not be tolerated. Credit will not be given for written work containing plagiarism, leading to possible failure of a course. All written material submitted by students must be their own original work; words and ideas of others must be acknowledged. Additionally, if students receive editorial help with their writing, they should also acknowledge it appropriately.

Faculty report all instances of plagiarism to the Academic Dean, who will then collect documented details of the case and advance any recommendations for further action to the Academic Policies Committee for review and any additional penalties that may be warranted (up to and including expulsion from the Seminary) will be determined.