Egyptian Arabic V All Assignments

Five College Center for World Languages

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# Course Assignments

## Assignment 1: Get Acquainted Assignment – for discussion in Egyptian Arabic

1. Prepare to introduce yourself in Egyptian Arabic and to tell your conversation partner and classmates about your history of learning Arabic and about your future goals for learning Arabic. Also be prepared to tell your conversation partner and classmates about your academic major and interests.

1. Be prepared to ask your conversation partner and classmates about her/his academic interests and about what languages s/he speaks fluently and what languages s/he has studied.

1. Be prepared to discuss your study abroad or travel experiences or hopes with your conversation partner and classmates. Where were you/Where do you hope to go? What did you do/Where do you want to go? Where did you live/Where will you live? Whom did you get to know/Whom do you hope to meet? What did you find most rewarding about the experience/What do you want to experience? What were the challenges/Do you anticipate any challenges?  Do you hope to go abroad again? What do you want to do?

1. Be prepared to share with your conversation partner and classmates what your favorite online resources are for listening to and exploring Egyptian Arabic. Your conversation partner will share with you some of her/his favorite online resources.

1. Be prepared to discuss topics you are interested in covering later in the semester. Are you interested in history, literature, politics, religion, economics, or something else? What possible sources could you use to find audio or video material related to these topics?

## Assignment 2: Music

### Study these videos from CultureTalk Egypt

* Listen to the videos. First listen multiple times without looking at the Arabic transcript or English translation.
* Then consult the transcript and translation as needed. Go back and listen.
* Finally, listen again. Stop and start in order to imitate the speaker using key phrases or expressions. Choose certain phrases and expression to learn that will enable you to discuss the video with others. You should be able to describe what the video is about and discuss similar topics.

#### Videos:

* “Arts and Entertainment”
  + Artists and Entertainers: Famous Contemporary Singers
  + Artists and Entertainers: Egyptian and Non-Egyptian Artists
  + Classical Egyptian Music: Enjoying Classical Egyptian Music
  + Classical Egyptian Music: Umm Kulthum
  + Variety in Musical Tastes: Change in Music Trends
  + Variety in Musical Tastes: Folk Music

### Listen to Egyptian music

* Find popular Egyptian music at <http://www.arabicmusictranslation.com/search/label/Egyptian>
  + Some of the embedded YouTube videos might show up as unavailable. In this case, try searching for songs on YouTube itself.
* Search YouTube for Egyptian popular music
* Pick an Arabic song that you like. Listen to the song. Then, look at the words and translation provided. Do they match your interpretation? Pick one or more songs to introduce to your classmates.
* Search for Umm Kulthum, Abdul Haleem Hafez, Fareed el-Atrash, or another classical singer mentioned in the CultureTalk videos on YouTube and listen to some of the songs mentioned in the CultureTalk videos. Do you have a favorite song or artist? Do any of them sound like current Egyptian music? How do they differ?
* Search for Hakim, Fatma Eid, or another folk musician mentioned in the CultureTalk videos. How does this music compare with classical and popular Egyptian music?

### Conversation Session Preparation

* Be prepared to talk about different singers and songs popular in Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon.
* Be prepared to talk about popular songs you listened to and classical songs you listened to.
* Be prepared to compare and contrast classical music with folk music and popular music.
* Be prepared to ask the conversation partner about the music s/he likes to listen to.

## Assignment 3: Cinema and Literature

### Study these videos from CultureTalk Egypt

* Listen to the videos. First listen multiple times without looking at the Arabic transcript or English translation.
* Then consult the transcript and translation as needed. Go back and listen.
* Finally, listen again. Stop and start in order to imitate the speaker using key phrases or expressions. Choose certain phrases and expression to learn that will enable you to discuss the video with others. You should be able to describe what the video is about and discuss similar topics.

#### Videos:

* “Arts and Entertainment”
  + Artists and Entertainers: The Hollywood of the Arab World
  + Cinema: Film Director Youssef Chahine
  + Cinema: Famous Egyptian Actors
  + Literature: Pillars of Egyptian Literature
  + Literature: Modern Egyptian Authors

### Conversation Session Preparation

* Be prepared to discuss the role of cinema in Egyptian life. Who are influential directors or actors? What is the purpose of cinema in Egypt? How does this compare to American cinema or other cinema industries?
* Be prepared to discuss major Egyptian writers, their major works, and the impact these works have on the Arabic reader.

## Assignment 4: Religious and Cultural Traditions

### Study these videos from CultureTalk Egypt

* Listen to the videos. First listen multiple times without looking at the Arabic transcript or English translation.
* Then consult the transcript and translation as needed. Go back and listen.
* Finally, listen again. Stop and start in order to imitate the speaker using key phrases or expressions. Choose certain phrases and expression to learn that will enable you to discuss the video with others. You should be able to describe what the video is about and discuss similar topics.

#### Videos:

* “Religious and Cultural Traditions”
  + Egyptian Holidays: National Holidays
  + Egyptian Holidays: A Spring Celebration
  + Coptic Holidays and Observances: Making Eid al Milad a Holiday
  + Christianity in Egypt: Variety of Christians in Egypt
  + Christianity in Egypt: How Christianity Spread in Egypt
  + Christianity in Egypt: Comparing Eastern and Western Christianity

### Conversation Session Preparation

* Be prepared to discuss different national and religious holidays in Egypt, their norms, and customs.

## Assignment 5: Religious and Cultural Traditions

### Study these videos from CultureTalk Egypt

* Listen to the videos. First listen multiple times without looking at the Arabic transcript or English translation.
* Then consult the transcript and translation as needed. Go back and listen.
* Finally, listen again. Stop and start in order to imitate the speaker using key phrases or expressions. Choose certain phrases and expression to learn that will enable you to discuss the video with others. You should be able to describe what the video is about and discuss similar topics.

#### Videos:

* “Religious and Cultural Traditions”
  + Welcoming Ramadan: Preparing for Ramadan
  + Welcoming Ramadan: Egypt Captures the Spirit of Ramadan
  + Welcoming Ramadan: When Bedouins Welcome Ramadan
  + Traditions during Ramadan: Egyptian Ramadan Traditions
  + Traditions during Ramadan: Ramadan Food Traditions
  + Traditions during Ramadan: Ramadan Activities

### Conversation Session Preparation

* Be prepared to discuss Ramadan with your conversation partner. How does one prepare for Ramadan? What are the traditions of Ramadan? What foods are eaten during Ramadan?

## Mid-semester Review

Review all material covered to this point.

## Assignments 6-10:

### Weekly Topic Selection

* The student(s) will choose the topic and video/audio selections and develop a list of discussion questions for the following week’s discussion.
* The student(s) will send the appropriate links and discussion questions/topics to the Conversation Partner, any other students in the section, and the Language Center no later than 24 hours after the previous week’s meeting.

### Conversation Session Preparation

* **Study for Comprehension:** Spend preparation time listening to and reading the selections. Expect to work with each selection for an extended period of time – listening or reading multiple times and researching unknown words or expressions. Aim to get the gist of each selection and details when possible.
* **Practice Aloud:** Practice formulating oral answers to the discussion questions. Study where you can talk aloud and give practice answers to the questions. Also, come up with your own questions about the selection, practice asking the questions, and practice formulating answers to those questions.
* **Review Vocabulary**: The student should prepare a list of new vocabulary pertaining to the discussion topic and practice integrating the new words into her/his bank of vocabulary so that s/he can use the words properly. The vocabulary list should become part of the week’s study packet.
* Each conversation session should end with some discussion about what the topic will be for the next week. Students are responsible for choosing the topic and appropriate video/audio sources. Conversation partners may provide suggestions, but students are responsible for making the selection. The program coordinator will provide guidance as necessary. If there is more than one student in the section, the students should work together or make a schedule for trading off making the choices. The topic and video/audio links should be emailed to the conversation partner, any other students, and the course organizer at the Center (fcmlp2@umass.edu) within 24 hours of the previous week’s meeting.

## Final Review

Review all material covered this semester.

## END OF COURSE Final Oral Evaluation:

The final oral evaluation will consist of a discussion with the evaluator about the listening and reading selections covered during the semester. Students should be prepared to have a discussion with the evaluator about the various topics covered. Students should be prepared to use key vocabulary in the oral evaluation.