

# CET Syllabus of Record

**Program:** Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman  
**Course Title:** Intensive Beginning Modern Standard Arabic (summer)  
**Course Code:** ARI101  
**Total Hours:** 72  
**Recommended Credits:** 4  
**Language of Instruction:** Arabic  
**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

---



## Description

This course is offered to students with little or no previous Arabic language study. The course lays the framework for developing the four skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking. Students learn the Arabic script and sounds, elementary grammar (including sentence structure, gender and plural agreement, tenses and negation) and basic vocabulary.

Driven by the concept of communicative proficiency and the goal of functional competency, this course fits the diglossic nature of the Arabic speech community. It is designed to build on Arabic communicative language skills by using a variety of vocabulary drills, grammar activities and conversation task assignments. It is an integrated course, including study of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and some beginning level elements of print, digital and recorded media Arabic. Although colloquial Arabic (Jordanian dialect) is the focus of a separate course, overlap is encouraged in order to address the communicative functions the student will face in real-life situations. The CET program treats Arabic as one system of communication with a common core including both a spoken side and a written side. This course focuses on reading, writing and listening presented in MSA. Speaking activities are conducted primarily in MSA, but integration of the Jordanian dialect is encouraged when appropriate (as used by a native speaker).

A communicative and student centered approach is used to encourage language acquisition, solidify knowledge of basic Arabic grammar and expand vocabulary. The focus is on communicative competence and the completion of concrete tasks, both within the classroom and in the surrounding environment, including interaction with native Arabic speakers. Basic vocabulary and grammatical structures are introduced with increasing complexity and difficulty. Students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies (linguistic and cultural) working to communicate appropriately on an increasing range of subjects.

## Objectives

Upon successful completion, students:

- Understand the basics of the Arabic sound and writing systems
- Understand basic grammatical structures
- Utilize limited vocabulary in simple contexts with improved subject-verb agreement, adjective agreement and tenses

**CET Academic Programs | 1155 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20036**  
**[www.cetacademicprograms.com](http://www.cetacademicprograms.com) | 1.800.225.4262 | [cet@cetacademicprograms.com](mailto:cet@cetacademicprograms.com)**

## CET Syllabus of Record

- Compose sentences and short paragraphs related to survival needs and daily life, primarily in the present tense
- Read and comprehend basic Arabic texts with familiar vocabulary and simple discourse
- Understand and participate in conversations about predictable daily life situations and topics of limited complexity
- Progress from the ACTFL Novice-low level to the Novice-High or Intermediate-Low level

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to thoroughly prepare for each class at home and actively participate in each class. All assignments and preparatory work must be completed before class. In-class activities and homework may include listening to audio materials, memorizing new patterns and vocabulary, completing written assignments, reviewing material learned the previous day and activating new vocabulary during class, etc. Attendance and participation are required and considered in the calculation of the final grade. Students are expected to not only read and understand short paragraphs and texts, but also to produce their own short passages and short texts.

### Methods of Evaluation

Students are evaluated in the four language areas (speaking, listening, reading and writing) through quizzes, written and oral exams and class participation.

The final grade is determined as follows:

Attendance/Participation: 20%

Homework: 20%

Exams: 20%

Final Oral Interview Exam: 10%

Final Written Exam: 10%

Final Project and Oral Presentation: 20%

All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class and late assignments are not accepted. During the final week, students undergo an oral interview exam covering the depth and breadth of material covered throughout the semester. Individual interviews last approximately 15 minutes. The final written exam is comprehensive and includes all vocabulary and grammatical structures covered during the semester. Each student is required to present a five-minute in-class oral brief on the subject of his/her final project, a written paper of no less than 1000 words.

### Primary Texts

CET course pack by Manal Yosef, Director of Arabic Curriculum, including primary source handouts, recordings and videos.

# CET Syllabus of Record

## Supplementary Texts

*A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (Arabic-English)* Hans Wehr. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, Inc., 1994.

## Outline of Topics Covered

The pace of instruction is intensive. Students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour studying on their own for every hour spent in the classroom.

Throughout the term, students cover the following grammatical topics:

- Introduction to the Arabic Alphabet and Sounds
- Indefinite and Definite Articles
- Superlatives and Gender Agreement
- Past and Present Tense Verbs and Simple Negation
- The Plural and the Dual
- Plural Verb Conjugation
- Pronouns and Verb Agreement
- Conditionals, the Comparative and Prepositions
- Pronouns
- Question Words
- Subject-Verb Agreement in Verbal Sentences
- Arabic Vowels: "الحركات" الفتحة، الكسرة، الضمة، السكون"
- Fronted Predicate
- Nominal and Verbal Sentences