

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman
Course Title: Intensive Advanced Beginning Jordanian Dialect (summer)
Course Code: ARI351
Total Hours: 40
Recommended Credits: 2
Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language
Language of Instruction: Arabic
Prerequisites/Requirements: ACTFL Intermediate-Low or Intermediate-Mid level, final placement at discretion of academic director



Description

This course is offered to students who have completed approximately four semesters of Arabic language study or more. Students should be comfortable with the fundamentals of MSA grammar and have a decent vocabulary base with which to conduct conversations of limited complexity.

Driven by the concept of communicative proficiency and the goal of functional competency, this course fits the diglossic nature of the Arabic speech community. Without practical knowledge of an Arabic dialect, students are handicapped in casual daily interactions and cut off from a substantial amount of contemporary Arab culture. Thus, Colloquial Arabic (Jordanian dialect) is the focus of this course; however, overlap with Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is encouraged when appropriate (as used by native speakers to address more advanced topics/issues). This course aims to address the communicative functions the student will face in real-life situations outside of the classroom. 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 is designed to build on the Arabic communicative language skills of listening and speaking using a variety of vocabulary drills, conversation task assignments, and authentic television, movie and radio sources. This course focuses on speaking and listening presented in the Jordanian dialect, the means of daily communication on the streets, in the home, and often on the radio and television in Jordan.

A communicative and student centered approach is used to encourage integration of Jordanian dialect into the student's already existing solid knowledge of MSA. 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. Real life materials such as videos and radio clips are used with emphasis placed on proactive communication. Students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies (linguistic and cultural) working to communicate appropriately on both high and low frequency daily subjects.

Objectives

Upon successful completion, students:

- Distinguish between MSA and Jordanian dialect, recognizing basic phonological, lexical and syntactic differences

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- Understand simplified grammatical rules of Jordanian dialect
- Pronounce Jordanian dialect letters and words correctly and utilize high frequency phrases and words with ease
- Functionally use Jordanian dialect to communicate in daily life situations (airport, home, *souq*, taxi, doctor, restaurant)
- Integrate MSA vocabulary base with Jordanian dialect to discuss more advanced topics/issues when sociolinguistically appropriate

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. Homework may include listening to audio materials, memorizing new patterns and vocabulary, completing spoken recorded assignments, reviewing material learned the previous day in the class, preparing mini-skits etc. Attendance and participation are required and considered in the calculation of the final grade.

Methods of Evaluation

Students are evaluated in speaking and listening through quizzes, skits, oral exams and class participation.

The final grade is determined as follows:

Attendance/Participation: 20%

Homework: 20%

Exams: 20%

Final Oral Interview Exam: 20%

Final Skit: 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 summer. Individual interviews last approximately 20 minutes. Each student is required to present an original skit, individually or in a group, during the final week of classes. Vocabulary used in the skit is prepared and distributed to the class prior to performance.

Primary Texts

CET course pack including primary source handouts, recordings and videos

Outline of Topics Covered

The pace of instruction is intensive. In addition to classroom time, students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour studying on their own for every hour spent in the classroom. A variety of authentic Arabic materials such as videos and radio clips are also used to ensure that at the course's conclusion students can successfully function in basic scenarios at the airport, at home, in the *souq*, in a taxi, at the doctor and in a restaurant. Students are also expected to integrate their MSA vocabulary base with Jordanian dialect to discuss more advanced topics/issues when sociolinguistically and culturally appropriate. Throughout the term, students cover the following topics:

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- Pronunciation and grammatical differences between MSA and Jordanian Arabic
- Personal and possessive pronouns
- Direct and indirect objects
- Past, present, continuous and future tenses
- Vocabulary for daily life situations such as expressing needs, getting to know someone conducting basic conversation
- Question words and their answers as they relate to buying, selling and negotiating in the *souq* (vegetables, fruits, clothes, shoes, kitchen and household goods)
- Food discourse and restaurant etiquette
- Travel concerns, including taxis, directions, hotels, airports and customs
- Pharmacy and doctor visits, pain and body parts
- Expressing sarcasm
- Popular songs in the dialect with emphasis on expressions, grammar and memorization