

# CET Syllabus of Record

**Program:** Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman

**Course Title:** Intensive Intermediate High Modern Standard Arabic (summer)

**Course Code:** ARI401

**Total Hours:** 72

**Recommended Credits:** 4

**Language of Instruction:** Arabic

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** ACTFL Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low level, final placement at discretion of academic director



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## Description

This course is offered to students who have completed approximately six semesters of Arabic language study. Students should be comfortable using complex grammatical structures and an actively controlled vocabulary base to conduct conversations and write compositions on a range of more advanced topics. Students should write at the paragraph level utilizing the most frequently used syntactic structures. Students should be capable of reading and understanding primary source Arabic materials of limited complexity on familiar subjects.

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 the Arabic communicative language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing 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 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 increase vocabulary acquisition and strengthen reading skills. 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. Class sessions incorporate appropriate intermediate-high level elements of print, digital and recorded media Arabic. New writing styles and sentence structures with increasing complexity and difficulty are introduced. Students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies (linguistic and cultural) working to communicate appropriately on a wide variety of subjects.

## Objectives

Upon successful completion, students:

- Demonstrate advanced reading comprehension skills
- Utilize a refined and expanded knowledge of sentence structure and the Arabic verb system

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- Write essays and compositions of increasing length and complexity employing a full range of structures
- Read a variety of authentic Arabic materials within a normal range of speed with good comprehension and some ability to “read between the lines”
- Follow news broadcasts directed at native speakers and understand the general ideas
- Are able to speak with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations about practical, social, and professional topics
- Progress from the ACTFL Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low level to Advanced-Mid or Advanced-High level

### Course Expectations

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 daily written assignments, reading primary source materials, reviewing material learned the previous day and activating new vocabulary during class through individual and group presentations. Attendance and participation are required and considered in the calculation of the final grade.

### 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 fifteen-minute in-class oral brief on the subject of his/her final project, a written paper of no less than 2000 words.

### Primary Texts

This course relies nearly exclusively on primary sources as opposed to a traditional MSA textbook. Students are exposed to Jordan-specific and regional materials aimed at strengthening reading skills, increasing vocabulary, refining and expanding knowledge of sentence construction and the Arabic verb system, and widening cultural background and understanding. Listening exercises are taken directly from

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authentic sources. Readings and vocabulary pertaining to out-of-class activities are integrated into the course curriculum. These materials are of increasing complexity and length, predominantly gleaned from local media (newspaper articles) and local radio shows. The following primary sources are used:

- الجزيرة
- العربية
- جريدة البعث
- صحيفة الثورة
- الوكالة العربية السورية للأنباء
- قصص قصيرة
- روايات
- قصائد

### Recommended 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. In addition, students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour studying on their own for every hour spent in the classroom.

Although this course focuses less on grammar and more on reading comprehension without the use of a dictionary, listening comprehension, and advanced writing skills, students cover the following grammatical topics:

- Full conjugation of varying verb classes
- Number + noun agreement
- Complex sentence structures
- In depth grammatical analysis
- Reading aloud with case endings