

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman
Course Title: Intensive Intermediate Jordanian Dialect (summer)
Course Code: ARI451
Total Hours: 40
Recommended Credits: 2
Language of Instruction: Arabic
Prerequisites/Requirements: ACTFL Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low level in MSA and Novice-Mid in Jordanian dialect, final placement at discretion of academic director



Description

This course is offered to students who have completed approximately four semesters of Modern Standard Arabic language study and at least one year of Jordanian dialect study. Students should be comfortable with the fundamentals of both MSA and Jordanian dialect grammar and have a decent vocabulary base in each with which to conduct conversations of greater complexity. Students should be comfortable distinguishing between MSA and Jordanian dialect, recognizing basic phonological, lexical and syntactic differences. Students should pronounce Jordanian dialect letters and words correctly and utilize high frequency phrases and words with ease to communicate in basic daily life situations. Students should integrate an MSA vocabulary base with Jordanian dialect to discuss more advanced topics/issues when sociolinguistically appropriate.

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 authentic Jordanian 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 Jordanian radio and television.

A communicative and student centered approach is used to encourage Jordanian dialect vocabulary acquisition. 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. 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.

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Objectives

Upon successful completion, students:

- Productively integrate MSA and Jordanian dialect to discuss advanced topics/issues as sociolinguistically and culturally appropriate
- Incorporate cultural references, pertinent vernaculars, idioms, socio-cultural expressions and proverbs in the appropriate contexts
- Understand multiple aspects of Jordanian society as displayed through Jordanian television
- Utilize an expanded vocabulary with improved grammatical accuracy

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 includes watching episodes of a Jordanian soap opera; memorizing new vocabulary, idioms and proverbs; recording presentations outside of class; giving in-class presentations and performing skits. 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 30 minutes. Each student is required to present an original skit, individually or in a group, during the final week of classes.

Primary Texts

A complete Jordanian soap opera including 24-25 episodes of approximately 40 minutes each with instructor-prepared handouts detailing new vocabulary, idioms and proverbs.

Supplementary Texts

Additional 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.

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Students watch approximately 21 episodes of the soap opera at a pace of roughly three episodes per week. Students watch the assigned episode or episodes prior to class and study the accompanying instructor-prepared handouts which detail new vocabulary, idioms and proverbs. These handouts provide the dialect and MSA equivalents and provide example scenarios to help familiarize students with appropriate context. In class, students discuss the events of the episodes assigned in detail and present hypothesis about future outcomes. Students demonstrate familiarity with the newly introduced vocabulary, idioms and proverbs through various in-class assignments and partner or group activities including role-playing, creating a new narrative, Q&A jeopardy game, yes/no game, 20 questions, etc. Subject matter covered varies by semester depending on soap opera, but students can expect to cover themes and taboos perhaps not otherwise addressed in Jordanian society including the following:

- Social relationships, including familial, marital and tribal
- Roles of women and men in society
- Politics, including local, regional and international
- Religious holidays and traditions
- Religious extremism
- Societal problems, such as poverty, drugs, economic development, domestic abuse, etc.