

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman
Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 112) Novice Low Jordanian Dialect
Total Hours: 40
Recommended Credits: 2
Primary Discipline: Arabic Language
Language of Instruction: Arabic
Prerequisites/Requirements: None



Description

This course is offered to students who have not previously studied Modern Standard Arabic or Jordanian dialect. Jordanian dialect course hours are front-loaded to build a foundation of communicative competency upon students' arrival in Amman. After the first week, course hours taper to an average of 5 hours per week.

Driven by the concept of communicative proficiency and the goal of functional competency, CET Jordan treats Arabic language as one system of communication, guiding students to employ the appropriate register to perform a variety of real-life communicative functions. CET's Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Jordanian dialect courses focus on their respective registers, however; overlap is encouraged in a way that mirrors the diglossic nature of the Arabic-speaking world.

The course employs a student-centered approach and focuses on communicative competence through the completion of concrete tasks, both in and outside the classroom, including interaction with native Arabic speakers. In order to prepare students for daily interactions with local people and engagement with contemporary Arab culture, class sessions incorporate elements of written and aural media produced for native speakers. Students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies, (linguistic and cultural) working to communicate effectively on an increasing range of subjects. Students are expected to be able to carry on basic daily conversations in their internship placements. Students in this course have the same required tasks as the students in the equivalent intensive program course, but in fewer course hours.

Objectives

Upon successful completion, students:

- Make the connection between class objectives, subjects, and assignments to the various host cultures, such as Jordanian culture and Islamic culture
- Demonstrate command of Arabic sound and writing systems with pronunciation understandable to natives who are accustomed to interacting with foreigners
- Understand elementary grammatical structures
- Utilize limited vocabulary in simple contexts with proper subject-verb agreement, adjective agreement and tenses

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- Compose sentences and short paragraphs related to survival needs and daily life, primarily in the present tense
- Utilize future tense verbs in simple contexts
- Read and comprehend Arabic texts with familiar vocabulary and simple discourse
- Guess with relative success at highly contextualized unfamiliar vocabulary
- Understand and participate in conversations about predictable daily life situations and topics of limited complexity

Course Requirements

The pace of instruction is intensive. Students are expected to thoroughly prepare for each class and to actively participate. 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. Class attendance is critical for success in the course, as is learning how to engage and navigate Jordan's cultural environment.

All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class and late assignments are not accepted. Quizzes and pop quizzes are administered throughout the term. Each month, students prepare a project connecting to the subjects and learning objectives covered that month. 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. Each student is required to create and record an original skit, individually or in a group, to be submitted to the instructor during the final week of classes. Vocabulary used in the skit is prepared and distributed to the class prior to performance.

In addition to time in class, students spend 16 hours throughout the semester conversing informally in Arabic with colleagues at their internship sites. Students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour studying for every hour spent in the classroom. Field-based excursions, for which attendance is required, may include a cooking activity, café activity, and farm activity.

Grading

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:

- Participation: 20%
- Homework: 20%
- Exams and Quizzes: 30%
- Monthly Projects: 10%
- Final Oral Interview: 10%
- Final Skit: 10%

Readings

يوسف، منال. لغتي العربية المستوى 1

Yosef, Manal. *My Arabic Language, Level 1*. Publication forthcoming.

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Outline of Course Content

Due to the immersive opportunities offered by the program's location in an Arabic-speaking country, students are expected to make rapid gains in language acquisition. Through daily use of Arabic inside and outside the classroom, students gain the ability to put together simple sentences, express daily needs, and create nominal and verbal sentences during the first two weeks of the program. Approximately one topic is covered per week.

Topic 1- The Culture of Daily Life in Jordan

- The alphabet and colloquial pronunciation of letters
- Memorization of
 - CET address
 - 5 fruits and 5 vegetables
- Simple phrases, pleasantries, and introductions
- Days of the week

Topic 2- The Culture of Addresses in Jordan

- Describing the apartment and directions, as well as discussing places and times
- Construction of verbal and non-verbal sentences
- How to ride a taxi, give directions
- Familiarity with important addresses

Topic 3- Getting to Know Jordanians Through Simple Conversations

- Conjugation and usage of everyday verbs (past, present, future) to describe one's family
- Simple questions and answers

Topic 4- The Culture of *Souqs* and Bargaining in Jordan

- Question words and their answers as they relate to buying, selling and negotiating in the *souq* (vegetables, fruits, clothes, shoes, kitchen, and household goods)
- Basic vocabulary to describe oneself, clothing, and personality and physical characteristics

Topic 5- Simple Description from a Cultural Lens

- Simple description of physical and personality characteristics
- Cultural differences between the use of physical characteristics between Jordan and the US

Topic 6- Expressions and Flattery in Natural Conversation

- Asking questions
- Vocabulary for daily life situations such as expressing needs, getting to know someone and conducting basic conversation, with emphasis on cultural expressions of congratulating and condoling
- Cultural differences between the expressions and flattery used in conversations in Jordan versus the US

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Topic 7- Written Communication

- Writing emails in various contexts with various audiences
- Using social media
- Sending letters and postcards