

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Intensive Arabic Language in Amman

Course Title: Current Issues in Arabic Media

Course Code: AM/LANG 325

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language / Middle Eastern Studies

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to all program students



Description

Offered strictly in Arabic, this course explores multiple venues of Arabic media including, but not limited to, Arabic newspapers, magazines, news broadcasts, commentaries, interviews and other TV and radio programs. Students hone their verbal and written abilities to express opinions on social, political and cultural issues relevant to contemporary Jordanian society. Students are challenged with advanced reading and listening exercises through exposure to authentic media materials.

This course begins meeting a few weeks into the program, after a period of intensive instruction in MSA and Jordanian dialect. Depending on the number of students enrolled, the course may be split up into smaller groups so instructors can devote personalized attention to students at varying levels of Arabic to ensure all students are able to actively participate in the larger class meetings. Class sections make up approximately one-third of the total class hours, while large group meetings and activities make up the remaining two-thirds.

Objectives

In this course, students:

- Learn the history and background of key Arab news agencies
- Recognize the essential questions asked and answered by the media: Who, What, When, Where, How and Why
- Augment Arabic vocabulary with high-frequency vocabulary phrases and expressions used in media language
- Gain confidence listening to and understanding live TV and radio news
- Discover strategies for translating Arabic syntax into English equivalents
- Increase their understanding of contemporary Jordanian society and popular culture
- Develop the analytical and research skills necessary for understanding primary-source print media
- Practice using media language in oral presentations and written analyses

Course Requirements

Students must complete all reading and listening assignments before coming to class. Weekly readings are primary-source Arabic texts and range from 3 to 5 pages per class session. Weekly listening exercises are based on authentic materials and range from 5 to 30 minutes per class session. Active class participation is essential. Students are expected to work through the texts and/or listening exercises thoroughly at home and come to class with an active understanding of the content. In addition to daily participation points,

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students are graded on weekly homework assignments, monthly projects and presentations, and a final project. Students may choose between a visual or written final project. Written projects must be at least 10 pages in length; visual projects must be at least 15 minutes in duration.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Attendance and active participation	30%
Homework	20%
Monthly projects	20%
Final project	30%

Primary Texts

Visual media samples are drawn from a variety of Arabic news channels including, but not limited to: *Al Jazeera*, *BBC Arabic*, *Al Arabiya*, *Al Hurra* and *Al Manar*.

Print media is drawn from local and regional newspapers and their corresponding websites including, but not limited to: *Ad Dustour*, *Al Arab Al Yawm*, *Al Ghad*, *Al Rai* and *Assabeel*.

Supplementary Texts

NA

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Arab News Agencies: Introduction (two weeks)

- Overview of prime Jordanian news outlets (including both national and local agencies)
- Overview of prominent regional Arab news outlets

Topic 2: Media Production Styles (one week)

- Visual tools: pictures and video
- Eye witness reporting: meetings, conferences and trials
- Interviews
- Analysis
- Critiques/Opinion Pieces

Topic 4: Strategies for reading and understanding media Arabic (one week)

- Pre-reading, skimming for main ideas, understanding organization, pulling out key vocabulary and essential details

Topic 5: Current events topical studies with emphasis on high frequency vocabulary phrases and expressions (approximately two weeks per topic)

- Politics – elections, demonstrations, diplomatic meetings and conferences
- Regional conflicts, military and terrorism
- Economy, business, law and finance
- Cultural reviews – literature, art and music

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- Natural disasters and foreign aid