

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Intensive Arabic Language in Amman, Middle East Studies and Internship in Amman

Course Title: Intensive Advanced Levantine Dialect (Fall/Spring)

Course Code: AM/LANG 360

Total Hours: 75

Recommended Credits: 4

Suggested Cross Listings: Culture Studies, Middle East Studies

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites/Requirements: ACTFL Advanced-Mid level in MSA and Novice-High in any Arabic dialect, final placement at the discretion of academic director

Description

This course is open to students who have completed approximately six semesters of Modern Standard Arabic language and at least one year of an Arabic 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.

Rather than focusing only on Jordanian dialect, this course uncovers the differences and shared qualities between the Jordanian Dialect and its neighbors. The dialects of the Arabic language differ greatly from one another, even within dialect groups that have much in common like the Levantine dialects originating from Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Jordan. This diversity means speakers of Arabic differ from one another, and thus seek to understand and learn from each other at the same time. Within the context of Amman, advanced speakers of Arabic require communicative proficiency in not only Jordanian Arabic, but also in the other Levantine dialects to interact with the diverse populations present in the city.

Since each dialect has a common source, reliance upon Modern Standard Arabic or a previously learned dialect is necessary to understand a new dialect. The focus of this class is to expand upon this knowledge through television, media, and social media from throughout the region of the Levant. The class also presents literature written in Levantine dialect and shines a light on several contemporary Arab bands that have dealt with taboos within society, politics and religion through their music, which is performed in their dialects. This course examines popular and religious expressions and proverbs, and places them in their religious, political, and economic contexts to build a deep understanding of the way the Levantine dialects have developed. Some phrases may be offensive or discriminatory in nature and the focus is examining how they entered the dialect from a sociolinguistic standpoint, not on the opinions of the speakers themselves.

Course Requirements

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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 songs, watching TV programs, watching or reading plays, and giving impromptu oral presentations. Projects assigned throughout the term require students to synthesize information learned in class materials with their own research and interviews conducted with roommates, language partners and other locals, and present their findings to their classmates. With the help of their academic partners, students take turns leading a class session, dissecting an episode, song or proverb, and facilitating class discussion and analysis. Some assignments offer students the opportunity to engage in discussion with Jordanians via social media.

Class attendance is critical for success in the course, as is learning how to engage and navigate Jordan's cultural environment. In addition to time in class, students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour studying for every hour spent in the classroom.

Methods of Evaluation

Students are evaluated on the four skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through quizzes, skits, written and oral exams and class participation.

The final grade is determined as follows:

Attendance/Participation: 20%

Homework: 20%

Exams and Quizzes: 30%

Monthly Projects: 10%

Final Oral Interview: 10%

Final Skit: 10%

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 present as a recording an original skit, individually or in a group, during the final week of classes. Vocabulary used in the skit is drawn from vocabulary previously covered in class.

Primary Texts

Lughati Al-'Arabiyya Part One by Manal Yosef, Academic Director (forthcoming, 2019).

The TV series *بقعة ضوء*, the series *لا تجيبوا السيرة*, the series *في ميل*, the play *هاي مواطن*, the play *الآن فهمتكم*, songs from Mashrou' Leila, the series *رؤيا*, the series *دنيا يا دنيا*, the daily TV show *يوم جديد*, and the TV series *العلم نور*, each with instructor-prepared handouts detailing new vocabulary, idioms, and proverbs.

Supplementary Texts

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Several songs and short stories written in different dialects; jokes and proverbs from popular culture, religion, or politics, as well as well-known popular expressions; the Jordanian TV series *تقلد همش*; *زين*

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1- Reviewing Dialect Basics (2 weeks)

- Brainstorming about all the tasks necessary for students
- Getting used to area by discussing how to purchase items at the *souq* (fruits, vegetables, clothing), navigating the city (taxis and directions), clothing, descriptions
- Using past, present, and future tense verbs

Topic 2- The Art of Sarcasm (1 week)

- Learning how to express sarcasm both directly and indirectly
- Watching episodes of *لا تجيبوا السيرة*

Topic 3- The Art of Jokes and Arabic Caricature (1 week)

- Political, religious, cultural, and sexual jokes
- Watching episodes of *في ميل*

Topic 4- The Art of Criticism and Responses to Criticism (1 week)

- Learning how to express criticism both directly and indirectly in political, social, and cultural contexts
- Watching episodes of *يوم جديد*

Topic 5- The Art of Idioms and Popular Expressions (1 week)

- Pulling out examples of popular religious, social, and cultural sayings passed down
- Watching episodes of *لا تجيبوا السيرة*
- Watching episodes of *دنيا يا دنيا*

Topic 6- The Art of Comparison (1 week)

- Learning complicated comparisons between two works of drama on religious, political, and social issues
- Watching the play *هاي مواطن*

Topic 7- Presenting Opinions in a Culturally Appropriate Way (1 week)

- Learning how to present one's opinion in various styles
- Viewing examples from TV shows

Topic 8- Presenting Assumptions in a Culturally Appropriate Way (1 week)

- Learning how to present assumptions

Topic 9- Application of Learned Skills (4 weeks)

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- Reviewing previous topics
- Watching episodes of لا تجيبوا السيرة
- Watching episodes of رؤيا
- Watching episodes of في ميل

Topic 10- Finals Week (1 week)

- Final exams, presentations, and interview