

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Intensive Arabic Language in Amman / Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman
Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 222/322/422) Living Language: Jordanian Dialect in Popular Culture

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language / Middle East Studies, Media Studies
Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites/Requirements: For the film concentration only, ACTFL intermediate is required. Final placement at discretion of Academic Director

Description

This course complements CET Jordan's Jordanian Dialect series by allowing students to apply the dialect, build vocabulary, and explore Jordanian culture through four concentrations. While the main language of instruction and discussion is Jordanian dialect, students are exposed to a variety of Levantine dialects and build comprehensions skills for the system of dialects. The course is offered as a class (3-5 students) or tutorial (1-2 students) with reduced contact hours. Apart from the film concentration, which has a pre-requisite of ACTFL intermediate level in Arabic, the course is open to all students. For novice level students, the course begins halfway through the program. Students choose one of the following four concentrations for this course:

Songs

Students listen to and unpack the cultural, romantic, satirical, political and religious meanings within Arabic songs from a variety of genres and learn about the musicians and their motivations. After listening in class, students present on what they've understood before diving deeper with the instructor to deal with layers of meaning and unpack colloquialisms and poetry in the lyrics, in addition to noting varying regional dialects and pronunciation. Students discuss the content of the music with their Jordanian peers and report back their findings in class. For the final project, students choose a song to analyze and present to the class.

TV Series

Students watch an entire TV series, moving episode by episode as homework assignments throughout the duration of the course, unpacking the cultural and linguistic layers in class, using phrases learned in from the show. Upon completing the series, students critically analyze the program, interviewing their Jordanian peers to understand local opinions on the ideas presented. Student complete a final presentation on the TV series including feedback, critical analysis, as well as their favorite quotes.

Satire

Students watch programming that satirizes economic, political, and social issues in Jordan and the Middle East, including standup and comedic plays. Emphasis is placed on satirical and sarcastic expression and their respective cultural and linguistic contexts, prompting students to connect linguistic expressions and colloquialisms with current events, developing a cultural sensibility based on indicators commonly understood in Jordanian society. The course also includes satirical cartoons famous in the region, like the works of the prominent cartoonist Naji Al-Ali, and their significance in voicing political and social dissent. Students also examine and deconstruct popular sarcastic jokes rich with cultural significance. At the end of the course, students present a collection of their favorite satirical works.

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Film

Students watch a select number of films including short films, silent films, recorded plays and musicals. Students are provided with a worksheet for each film to help them prepare to discuss. Emphasis is placed on comprehension of the plot, important quotes, and primary and secondary characters. Variances in dialect are highlighted. Following classroom discussion in small groups, students engage with their Jordanian peers on the topics covered by the films, using the past tense to narrate the sequence of events, culminating in a presentation on the films viewed. (Prerequisite of ACTFL intermediate)

Objectives

Through their participation in this course, all students:

- Develop their proficiency in Jordanian dialect by engaging with culturally rich media intended for native speakers
- Explore Jordanian and Arab popular culture
- Build vocabulary in semantic fields related to course themes
- Distinguish between subdialects of Jordan and the effects of refugee populations on Jordan dialect

Students in the *Songs* concentration learn to:

- Understand Jordanian music culture and memorize with high-frequency phrases used in songs
- Distinguish between the subject matter of different songs through words and phrases
- Identify similarities and differences between language used in songs and everyday speech
- Recognize grammar patterns previously studied
- Make connections between contemporary social, political, and economic issues in music from a variety of sources, with attention to songs written by the younger generation of musicians
- Examine the relationship between Arabic rap and political conflicts and the Arab spring

Students in the *TV Series* concentration learn to:

- Comfortably and accurately narrate in the past tense, and describe a series of events using phrases learned from the program
- Recognize different grammar patterns, subdialects, and insertion of English according to the varying sectors of society
- Follow an entire TV series through 30 episodes
- Study the economic implications of the special Ramadan production season for tv shows, especially dramas
- Develop the listening and guessing skills necessary to allow them to understand events and detect different accents while watching a TV series

Students in the *Film* concentration learn to:

- Make connections between themes portrayed in film and realities in the Arab world
- Apply vocabulary learned through viewing films
- Learn rhetorical devices used in Jordanian and Levantine dialects and build awareness about overlapping and diverging vocabulary and structures between the dialects of the region
- Develop listening skills and guessing strategies that allow them to watch and understand lengthy content in dialect
- Identify grammatical speech patterns by focusing on shorter excerpts of films

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Students in the *Satire* concentration learn to:

- Gain an insight into the opinions of societies spanning the Arab world by unpacking the layers of meaning in satirical shows and comedy
- Pay special attention to the growth of satirical and comedic content in the wake of the Arab Spring
- Differentiate between varying degrees of freedom of speech and within which contexts such speech is tolerated by authorities
- Make connections between broadcasting, production, funding and political motivations
- Identify and become familiar with linguistic characteristics particular to satirical expression like speed, variance, codeswitching to alternate dialects, sometimes in order to depict stereotypes or prejudices, at times in a derogatory manner

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, reading texts, short stories, and novels, writing paragraphs, conducting interviews with locals, making presentations, engaging in group discussion, memorizing new patterns and activating new vocabulary.

Class attendance, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy, is critical for success in the course, as is learning how to engage in and navigate Jordan's cultural environment. All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class and late assignments are not accepted.

There are a variety of field-based excursions and assignments, including but not limited to meetings with local musicians or professionals in the media industry, discussion circles with local peers, watching movies in the cinema, and other site visits.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation: 20%
- Activities and Homework: 15%
- Presentations: 5%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Mid-Term Project: 10%
- Mid-Term Exam 5%
- Final Exam: 5%
- Final Oral Interview Exam: 10%
- Final Assignment 20%

Readings

Due to the course's focus on Jordanian dialect in popular culture, there are no readings for this class. Course materials are comprised of aural media including film, tv, and music, listed below.

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Additional Resources

Films:

[Al Huduud.](#) Online. Directed by Duraid Lahham. Syria: United Trade and Cinema, 1984.

[Capernaum.](#) Online. Directed by Nadine Labaki. Lebanon: Sony Pictures Classic, 2018.

[Captain Abo Raed.](#) Online. Directed by Amin Matalqa. Jordan: Paper and Pen Films, 2007.

[Mihbas.](#) Online. Directed by Sophie Botros. Lebanon, Syria: Empire International Gulf, 2016.

[Mudun Transit.](#) Online. Directed by Mohammad Hushki. Jordan: Mahmoud Lotfy Studio, 2010.

[Soriyeen.](#) Online. Directed by Basel Al Khatib. Syria: National Film Organization, 2016.

[Theeb.](#) Online. Online. Directed by Najj Abu Nowar. Jordan: Mad Solutions, 2014.

TV Shows:

[Abou Al 'Areef. "NO2".](#) Directed by Nicholas Khouri. Roya. Jordan. 2013.

أبو العريف / NO2 / نيكولاس خوري / 2013 / الأردن / قناة يوتيوب / قناة رؤيا

[Bibasata.](#) Entire series. Directed by Seif al Deen Sabeey. Lena. Syria. 2019.

ببساطة: "مسلسل كامل" سيف الدين سبيعي / 2019 / سوريا / لنا

[Buq'aat Dow'. Season Five.](#) Directed by 'Abed Fahad, Laith Haju, Najj Ta'ama. Sham Drama. Syria. 2001.

بقعة ضوء / الجزء الخامس / بقعة ضوء / المخرج عابد فهد والليث حجج وناجي طعمة / 2001 / سورية / شام دراما

[Fi Mail. "Jarah Tany." Season Three.](#) Directed by Tema Al Shomali. Roya. Jordan. 2014.

جرح تاني / الجزء الثالث / في ميل / تيما الشمولي / 2014 / الأردن / رؤيا.

[Fog Al Sada. Episode Twenty Three.](#) Directed by Nasser Ja'aroon. Roya. Jordan. 2015.

فوق السادة" برنامج كامل" حلقة الثالثة والعشرون فوق السادة ناصر جعرون ومجموعة من الشباب 2015، الأردن، رؤيا

[Jalta.](#) Entire series. Directed by Fares 'Alqam. Roya. Jordan. 2018.

جلطة:"مسلسل كامل" الجزء الأول / جلطة / فراس علقم / 2018 / الأردن / رؤيا

[Lajj'een. "Watan 'Awatar".](#) Episode Two. Directed by Mohammed Laham. Roya. Jordan 2017.

لاجئين / الحلقة الثانية/ وطن ع وتر/ محمد لحام / 2017 / الأردن / رؤيا

[La Teebu Seera.](#) Entire Series. Directed by Mohammed Al Shawaqfa. Jordanian Television. Jordan 2001.

لا تخبوا سيرة : "مسلسل كامل" محمد الشواقفة / 2001 / الأردن / التلفزيون الأردني

[Al 'Ilm Noor.](#) Season Three. Directed by Rafael Buqaily. Jordanian Television. Jordan. 1985.

المسلسل كامل / العلم نور / الجزء الثالث / رفايل بقيلي / 1985 / الأردن / التلفزيون الأردني



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[Marhaba Akhi. "Saleet Akhbari." Episode Eleven. Season Seven. Directed by Nicholas Khouri. Roya. Jordan. 2019.](#)

مرحباً أخي / الجزء السابع حلقة 11 / سليط أخباري / نيكولاس خور/2019 / الأردن / قناة يوتيوب / قناة رؤيا

[Al Thiqa Wal 'Aunf Al Jama'ai. "Tashweesh Wadih." Episode Seven. Directed by Nasser Ja'aroon. Roya. Jordan. 2012.](#)

الثقة والعنف الجامعي / الحلقة السابعة / تشويش واضح / ناصر جعرون ومجموعة من الشباب / 2012 / الأردن / رؤيا

Songs:

['Abdullah, Mohammad. 'Onsor Falat. Firqat Zaed Naes. Online.](#)

محمد عبدالله / عنصر فلت / فرقة زائد ناقص (---) / أونلاين

[Abukhlif, Amr; Alqasem, Rami; Mardirossian, Masis; Sayej, Basem. Akhertho Lahen Hazeen. Akher Zapheer. Converse Culture. 789503 Records DK, 2018.](#)

[Abou Fakher, Frias; Badr, Ibrahim; Gerges, Carl; Papazian, Haig; Sinno, Hamed.. M'aalik. Meshrou' Leila 2019.](#)

[Alarabe, Mohamed. Qaatil Ma'jour. Moudy Alarabe. Akelys Production.](#)

محمد العربي / قاتل مأجور / مودي العربي / أستوديو محمد العربي / مودي العربي

[Farhoud, Firas. Al Rashdan, Ihab; Al Homs, 'Addi; Soliman, Laith. Ya 'Aneed. Firqat GuitaNai. Online.](#)

فراس فرهود / يا عنيد / فرقة جيتاناي (إيهاب الرشدان، عدي الحمصي، ليث سليمان) / أونلاين

[Al Jindi, Tareq; Takrouri, Alaa'; 'Alyan, Lara; Bel'aawi; Al Sayyid, Ma'an; Samirat, Y'arab; 'Atallah, Muhanad. 'Ami Ya Abou Al Fanous. Firqat Al Shams. Online.](#)

عمي يا أبو الفانوس / فرقة شرق (طارق الجندي، ألاء تكروري، لارا عليان، خالد بلعوي، معن السيد، يعرب سميرات، مهند عطا الله) / أونلاين

[Khalifa, Yazan; Al Kilani, Zeid. Hall 'Anni. Firqat Jabal Al Mureekh. Online.](#)

يزن خليفة وزيد الكيلاني / حل عني / فرقة جبل المريخ (يزن خليفة و زيد الكيلاني) / أونلاين

[Khoury, 'Alaa; Bashar, Hamza; Kharees, Ibrahim. Lira. Firqat Blouz W Bantalon. Online.](#)

مجموعة من الشباب / ليرة / فرقة بلوز وبنطلون (علاء خوري، حمزة، بشار وإبراهيم خريس) / أونلاين

[Al Lozi, Hossam; Al Lozi, Wissam. Firqat Al Loziyeen. Ya Bayrakna Al 'Aali. Online.](#)

--- / يا بيرقنا العالي / فرقة اللوزيين (حسام و وسام اللوزي) / أونلاين

[Rdayda, Mohammed. Ana Bkhaf Min Al Commitment. Al Radayda, Mohammed; Farah, Ahmad; Mulahas, Lotfy; Abou Hamdan, Seif; Halalat, Badr; Rajja, Qais; Othman, Qais. Firqat Jadal. Online.](#)

محمد ردايدة / أنا بخاف من الكومينتات / فرقة جدل (محمد الردايدة، أحمد فرح، لطفي ملحس، سيف أبو حمدان، بدر هلالات، قيس رجا، قيس عثمان)

[Al Rousan, Yazan. Demerjian, Afo; Hamdan, Bashar; Al Rousan, Yazan; Al 'Ali Barhan; 'Atari, Abdel Rahman; Shweyet, Muhanad. Istenny Shweyy. Firqat Autostrad. Online.](#)

يزن الروسان / استنى شوي / فرقة أوتوستراد (أفو ديمرجيان، بشار حمدان، يزن الروسان، برهان العلي، عبدالرحمن عطاري، مهند شويات) / أونلاين

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[Al Thahir, Mohammad. Abou Nawar, Wael; Taher, Jamal. *Tifil w Hajar*. Firgat Miraaj. Online.](#)

محمد الظاهر / طفل وحجر / فرقة ميراج (وائل أبو نوار، جمال طاهر) / أونلاين

[Al Tibri, Raad; Al Jaghoul, Muneef; Muhayidat, Ma'an; Al Zo'abi, Yasser; Tarawy, 'Abdel Fattah; Al Jaffa, Hayyan. *Nazil 'Ala Al Ghour*. Firgat Ayloul. Online.](#)

مجموعة من الشباب / نازل على الغور / فرقة أيلول (رعد الطبري، منيف الزغول، معن مهيدات، يسر الزعبي، عبد الفتاح تراوي، حيان الجفّة) / أونلاين

Outline of Topics Covered

Topic 1: Arab youth culture after the Arab Spring

- Moudy Alarbe and Arab rap
- Youth drama and social media
- Youth culture and western influence after the Arab Spring
- N20 and changing youth culture
- Al Mihbas and the Arab Spring- changing international friendships

Topic 2: Arab music as a mirror of reality

- Meshrou' Leila and critical social issues, changing expression in music
- Music as a reflection of shared pain, youth proclivity toward communal ideas and communal music

Topic 3: Sarcasm and mockery of realities in the Arab world

- Foq al Sada: Letting off steam through satire in Arab society
- Jalta: Worries and pain of society and family at the heart of satirical dramedy
- Meshrou' Leila: how musicians address society's pain and fears through satirical music
- Visualizing the worries of Arab society in Arab film at the heart of a comedy

Topic 4: Arab dramas and exceptions to censorship

- Watan 'ala Watar: TV programming as government sanctioned platform for alleviating societal tensions
- TV censorship- what gets cut and what gets aired
- Escaping the censors- strategies for avoiding censorship

Topic 5: Cinema culture in Arab societies and reflections of reality

- *Capernaum*: Lebanese cinema addressing child labor, child marriage, and refugees
- *Captain Abo Raed*: Children's dreams and reality

Topic 6: Freedom of expression and emulating Western musical styles

- The virtual world and closing gaps and musical influences
- Changes in instruments used in Arab music inspired by Western vocal styles

Topic 7: Art and authority

- Al Hudud: Criticism of art and cinema- from the Arab state to the Arab world for acceptance
- Al Saleet al Ikhbari: authority using art to influence and criticize other countries
- La tijeebu sira: drama shines the light on issues of authority through satire in disguise
- Tashweesh wadih: Authority employing art as a careful tool for creating a false sense of release for citizens