



Syllabus of Record

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

Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 233, 333, 433) Living Language: Modern Standard Arabic in Practice

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites / Requirements: For the reading and speaking concentrations, ACTFL Intermediate is required. Final placement at discretion of Academic Director

Description

This course complements CET Jordan's Modern Standard Arabic series by situating the language in its natural context and guiding students to communicate in MSA as native speakers do. Through a variety of applications like formal debate, speech, presentation, and literature, students explore thematic content in realistic contexts. Students choose to concentrate on a specific language skill among the four: reading, writing, listening, or speaking, according to their future academic and professional goals. The course is offered as a class (3-5 students) or tutorial (1-2 students) with reduced contact hours.

Apart from the reading 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. The full course code corresponds to the levels offered: novice, intermediate, and advanced. Final placement (and thus course code) are determined on-site. Students choose one of the following four concentrations for this course:

Listening

Students listen to a variety of media, including news, political debates, popular entertainment, and programming on religion, art and society, and come to class prepared to present on what they've heard, beginning with the key words and connectors which unlock understanding, and progressing to the opinions presented, and their own criticisms and/or convictions. Students complete a final project by gathering a series of listening samples from a variety of sources, representing diverse perspectives on a topic of the student's choice.

Writing Techniques

Students develop their writing skills on a variety of topics by employing sound sentence structure and correctly using connectors. Students build vocabulary in a number of semantic fields, beginning with building blocks, and eventually producing a comprehensive text. Classroom writing assignments may be timed, to build speed, whereas homework assignments are longer in length, requiring more depth. Each month, students prepare a composition at home to present in class, covering the topic as well as the writing strategies employed.

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Speaking & Rhetoric

Students build a collection of structures allowing them to speak on variety of topics, in formal presentation format, and via group discussion with their local peers. Students practice description, comparison, criticism, and hypothesis via group discussion of intriguing and current topics, eventually organizing formal debates with their peers including the presentation of an opinion and rebuttal. Each week, there is a discussion circle on the latest news and current events. Emphasis is placed on how to engage in sensitive topics with respect and tact. (Prerequisite of ACTFL intermediate)

Reading

Students read Arabic short stories, selected readings, and novels on a variety of topics including culture, politics, religion, and society. The length of the texts varies slightly according to students' language levels. Students complete readings at home and come to class prepared to discuss. Upon the completion of a given novel or text, students engage in discussion with Jordanian students on the topic of the reading. Emphasis is placed on literary techniques and students are encouraged to identify and share their favorite quotations from works read. This concentration encourages creative engagement with texts through video projects and student-led literary discussion circles. (Prerequisite of ACTFL intermediate)

Objectives

Through their participation in this course, all students:

- Develop their proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic by focusing on strengthening specific skills
- Build a linguistic skill set that serves their future academic and professional interests
- Make explicit connections between the thematic content explored and the linguistic strategies employed to develop skills and expression
- Build vocabulary in semantic fields related to course themes

Students in the *Reading* concentration:

- Develop strategies for reading and comprehending texts without the aid of a dictionary (e.g.- distinguishing and prioritizing the importance of information for the purpose of comprehension)
- Identify key words which reveal the author's opinion
- Build presentation skills and speak comfortably and fluidly about literature

Students in the *Listening* concentration:

- Develop strategies for effective listening comprehension by employing historical/cultural context of the listening, the student's own background knowledge on the subject and grammatical clues, sentence structure, and connectors to predict meaning instead of relying solely on vocabulary.
- Understand accurately a variety of native speakers from different backgrounds and generations
- Build research skills particular to the unique challenges of working with listening samples/aural media

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Students in the *Writing Techniques* concentration:

- Develop strong writing skills and independently compose texts varying in length depending on students' language levels
 - Novice: 3 pages
 - Intermediate: 7 pages
 - Advanced: 10-15 pages
- Produce formal emails, participate in social media, and draft a resume fluidly and appropriate to context, without translation from English
- Learn how to write a research paper according to Arab curricula/standards

Students in the *Speaking & Rhetoric* concentration:

- Develop leadership skills by leading and moderating discussions and debates with peer group
- Build confidence in public speaking and comfort with persuasive speech and rhetoric
- Comfortably present to an audience in Arabic for 15-20 minutes

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 and papers, conducting interviews with locals, making presentations, engaging in organized debate, 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.

Students complete mid-term and final projects, the format of which is determined by the concentration. Projects require students to engage with authentic material and produce a response using the skills they are focusing on e.g. *listening* students analyze an audio recording, *speaking* students conduct interviews, *writing* students complete a research paper. Regardless of the medium, all students incorporate feedback, opinions, or views garnered by their interactions with local peers.

This course includes a large number of field-based excursions and assignments, for which attendance is critical, including but not limited to, organized debates with local students, meeting local authors, musicians, and parliament members. The course may also include special lectures, site visits, conferences, or structured dialogues.

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%

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- Quizzes: 20%
- Presentations: 10%
- Mid-term project: 15%
- Final project: 15%

Readings

This course includes student-driven thematic content as well as the following readings:

[Abd Al Hamid Shams Al Deen. *The Most Beautiful Short Stories*](#). "The Envious and The Miserly". "Juha And Sa'il". "The Mask is an Undeniable Treasure". "The Truth of Happiness". "The Doctor's Case". "The Sole of the King's Shoe". "The Fool and the Boy". "Dirham in the Desert". "The Announcement and the Blind Man". "The Tale of the Eagle". "The Trap of Ambition". "The Teacher and the Students". 2019.

عبد الحميد شمس الدين. أجمل القصص القصيرة. الحسود والبخيل. جحا والسائل. القناعة كنز لا يفنى. حقيقة السعادة. حقيبة الطبيب. نعل الملك. الأحمق والصبي. درهم في الصحراء. الإعلان والأعمى. حكاية النسر. مصيدة الطموح. المعلمة والطلاب. 2019.

Hussein, Taha. *The Plover's Prayer*. pp. 160. Dar al Ma'arif. 1934.

رواية دعاء الكروان لطف حسين "160 صفحة" دار المعارف، 1934

Ibn Al Maqfa'a. Edited by 'Abd al Khaliq 'Aoud. *Kalila and Dimna*. Dar al Usra. Jordan. 2018.

مختارات من كتاب كليلة ودمنة لابن المقفع: اسم الكتاب: 13 قصة من قصص كليلة ودمنة: تأليف عبد الخالق عوض، الناشر، دار الأسرة للنشر والتوزيع. في الأردن، الطبعة 2018

Mena, Hana. *The End of a Brave Man*. Dar al Aadab. Beirut. 1997.

رواية نهاية رجل شجاع لحنا مينا، دار الآداب/ بيروت، 1997.

Additional Resources

Fawzy, Osama. Selected works.

Hatr, Nahid. Selected works.

Kleib, Sami. Selected works.

Al Maghout, Mohammed. Selected works.

Seif, Walid. *Nasr Salah al Din*. Ali, Hatem. Suriya Al Dawliya. 2001.

مسلسل الناصر صلاح الدين باللغة العربية الفصحى. للكاتب وليد سيف، المخرج: حاتم علي، شركة إنتاج سورية الدولية، المراجعة التاريخية د. محمد محفل، 2001.

Sheikhani, Dawood. *Once Upon A Time*. Shikhani for Visual Production. 1992.

مسلسل "كان يا ما كان" الكاتب: داوود شيخاني، إنتاج شيخاني للإنتاج المرئي، إخراج داوود شيخاني، 1992.

Tamer, Zakaria. Selected works.

Yunan, Rihan. *Metro*. Mayadeen Channel. Mayadeen Channel Production. 2018.

برنامج مترو من قناة الميادين، إنتاج قناة الميادين، إعداد وتقديم ريحان يونان، سنة 2018

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Infographics from [Al Mayadeen](#) on subjects like the Arab world, terrorism, life sciences, human rights, and sports.

Varied television programming on topics like culture, art, society from around the Arab world from [Al Mamlaka Television](#).

[Al Mu'ayita, 'Adi. Undocumented: The History of Migrant Workers in Jordan. Edited by Ibrahim Al Ta'ani. Amman: Al Mamlaka Television.](#)

[Perspectives. Amman: Al Mamlaka Television.](#)

[Village Secrets. Amman: Al Mamlaka Television.](#)

Outline of Course Content

This course combines pre-set thematic content with student interests and student-chosen topics. Thematic content includes:

Topic 1: Cultural implications on social structures and relationships

- Integrating formal speech and dialect as appropriate depending on social sector and culture
- The culture of religion and society in books, articles, and stories
- The developing phenomena of writing in society and cross-cultural relationships
- Arab culture and its religious, historical, and national roots as reflected in TV, radio and podcasts.

Topic 2: Islam, Christianity and youth in Jordan

- Jordanian youth and competing influences: religion and the developments of the era.
- Civil marriage and youth opinion
- Higher education and universities: the future after graduation
- Entertainment and free time: between the internet and the coffee shop.

Topic 3: Gender and stereotypes: culture, religion, education, profession, family and authority

- Women's fortunes in patriarchal society from the family to parliament.
- Gender stereotypes and work in Arab culture
- Effects of gender segregation in elementary schools
- Religious interpretation, gender classification and sociopolitical status of men and women

Topic 4: Jordanian politics, the Arab Spring and regional geopolitics

- The water crisis and the Arab Spring
- Geography, political attraction, and demographic, economic, and cultural change
- The Arab Spring, geography, and systems of governance

Topic 5: Prominent historical figures in Jordan

- Wasfi Tal
- HRH King Hussein, his relationship with his people and making Jordan a player on the regional stage

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- Mohammad Nooh Al Qada

Topic 6: Jordanian society after the Arab Spring and the refugee crisis

- Effects of recent refugees on food, social relationships, customs and clothing
- Varied Jordanian perspectives on the economic implications of refugees and their ability to marry and find better opportunities
- International marriages after the Arab Spring

Topic 7: The Middle East vs. the Arab world: cohesive and conflicting relationships, tension and stability

- Conflict and demographic and religious changes: from Salah Al Din until today
- Regional political tensions and attractions and Arab drama
- Coverage of Arab conflict in Arabic media
- Dictators and conflicts in Arabic literature from the time of the Abbasids

Topic 8: Letter-writing in Arabic

- Writing messages with simple topics- apologies, postponement, cancelation, invitation, complaint, reservation, how to use emojis.
- History of Arabic letter-writing for political, economic, and literary reasons, mandates
- Writing official versus personal emails, how to write and mail cards
- Writing articles and commenting on articles on Facebook and other sites, exchanging messages over WhatsApp and other chat channels.
- Formal research paper in Arabic

Topic 9: Literary arts

- Arabic rhetorical devices in improvised speech
- Metaphor and puns in literature and speech
- Literary allegories with cultural and religious connections in articles, novels, and non-fiction.
- The art of reading Arabic novels with fluency