

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 110) Novice Low Jordanian Dialect

Total Hours: 56

Recommended Credits: 3

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.

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, with class sessions incorporating elements of written and aural media produced for native speakers. Through the completion of concrete tasks, that involve interaction with native Arabic speakers and engagement with contemporary Arab culture, students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies, working to communicate effectively on an increasing range of subjects.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students:

- Demonstrate command of the Arabic phonetic 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
- 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
- Demonstrate cultural competencies that will serve them in Jordanian and Arab contexts.

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Course Requirements

The pace of instruction is intensive. In-class activities and homework may include listening to audio materials, memorizing new patterns and vocabulary, reading and writing short paragraphs and texts, reviewing material learned the previous day, and activating new vocabulary. In addition to regular class time, the course also requires regular meetings with academic partners and attendance at office hours, and may also include special lectures, debates, interviews, or structured dialogues with native speakers to simulate the cultural environment. Attendance for class, academic partner and instructor meetings, and special activities is factored into students' participation grades. Participation grades also take into account preparation for and active engagement in both synchronous and asynchronous course components. Students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour studying for every hour spent in class.

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. Throughout the term, students prepare projects connecting course topics and learning objectives. During the final week, students undergo an oral interview exam covering the depth and breadth of material covered throughout the summer. 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.

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.

Outline of Course Content

In fall and spring, topics are covered in one to two weeks, in summer approximately one topic per week.

Topic 1 - Introductions

- The alphabet and colloquial pronunciation of letters
- Simple phrases, pleasantries, and introductions
- Days of the week

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- Fruits and vegetables

Topic 2 - Navigating Amman

- Places and times
- Construction of verbal and non-verbal sentences
- How to ride a taxi, give directions
- Home and university

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

Topic 7 - Written Communication

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