

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 250) Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic

Total Hours: 105

Recommended Credits: 6

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites / Requirements: ACTFL Intermediate-Low or Intermediate-Mid level equivalent. Final placement is at discretion of Academic Director.

Description

This course is offered to students who:

- have familiarity with Arabic sentence structure and 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
- possess a foundation for using past and imperative tenses with high frequency verbs.

This course focuses on frequently used syntactic structures of increasing grammatical complexity to allow for compositions at the paragraph level. Through a series of topics, the course expands vocabulary and increases accuracy and control in speaking and recalling words. At the end of the course, students can read and sufficiently comprehend primary source Arabic materials of limited complexity on familiar subjects. Course themes support students in their communication with native speakers at the level of simple conversation on limited range of topics. Special attention is given to cultural and social themes which demonstrate the diversity of local perspectives and highlight the power dynamics that help shape them.

Driven by the concept of communicative proficiency and the goal of functional competency, CET Jordan programs treat 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. In intermediate-level courses, students have some flexibility to use the diglossic nature of the Arabic-speaking world in their daily life.

The course employs a student-centered approach and focuses on communicative competence through the completion of concrete tasks, both in and outside the classroom, including interaction with native Arabic speakers. In order to introduce new vocabulary and increasingly complex grammatical structures, the course supplements materials designed for language instruction with listening and reading samples intended for native speakers. Students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies to communicate effectively on an increasing range of subjects.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students can:

- Demonstrate decisive improvement in pronunciation.
- Understand increasingly complex grammatical structures.

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- Actively control an expanded vocabulary.
- Recognize and utilize the root and pattern system of Arabic grammar for greater comprehension.
- Write compositions at the paragraph level with the most frequently used syntactic structures
- Read and sufficiently comprehend primary source Arabic materials of limited complexity on familiar subjects
- Understand and participate in high-frequency social situations including extensive, but casual conversations beyond daily life situations, to include a limited range of topics such as work and family
- Progress from the ACTFL Intermediate-Low or Intermediate-Mid level to Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low level

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, memorizing new patterns and vocabulary, reading and writing short paragraphs and texts, reviewing material learned the previous day, 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 and navigate Jordan's cultural environment. The course may also include field-based components like special lectures, site visits, or structured dialogues.

All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class and late assignments are not accepted. For the mid-term project, students assume the role of the teacher for a 20-minute presentation on one of the four skills: reading, writing, listening, or speaking. The final written exam is comprehensive and includes all vocabulary and grammatical structures covered during the semester. The final oral interview exam covers the depth and breadth of course material. Individual interviews last approximately 15 minutes. The final assignment is a written paper of no less than seven pages which includes a description of the whole topics that they have learned in class. Students are required to prepare a seven minute in-class presentation on the subject of their final assignment using 90% of the vocabulary learned in class.

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: 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

يوسف، منال. لغتي العربية المستوى ٤ - ٥

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Yosef, Manal. *My Arabic Language, Levels 4-5*. Publication forthcoming.

Additional Resources

The class incorporates the use of short video clips (maximum 2-3 minute) from popular news channels such as Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera that reflect the issues being discussed in the class.

Outline of Course Content

During the semester, approximately two weeks are dedicated to each topic. In the summer term, topics are covered in one week at an accelerated pace.

Topic 1: Daily life in a different culture

- Reviewing the elementary grammatical structure
- Present, past, and future tenses (الأفعال الخمسة)
- Verb forms (1,2,5)
- Family, hobbies, work, and gender roles
- Favorite foods, colors, clothing
- Work and university
- Religious and cultural influences on lifestyle choices
- Personality traits and emotions

Topic 2: New Experiences in Jordan

- Negation
- Verb forms (3,6)
- Dual and Plural
- Study abroad in Jordan
- Ghassan Kanafani

Topic 3: Simple media terminology in Arabic news

- Verbs widely used in the media
- The agreement between the subject and verb
- Nominal and verbal sentence in the media
- Simple interviews (Q&A)
- The Arabic newspaper
- News on politics, economics, society and the arts
- Representation in Arabic media, power and fame: language, gender, class and content

Topic 4: Description in Arab culture: positive, negative, and objective

- Adjectives and noun/adjective agreement.
- الحال
- المفاعيل به، فيه، معه، مطلق، لأجله
- التمييز
- Numbers
- Simple comparison
- Jordan's cultural and historical landmarks
- Culture, religion, and colonialism: what makes a landmark?

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- Local versus international recognition
- Important cultural figures
- Describing work/careers
- Weather

Topic 5: Islam in Jordan

- Conditional clauses إن، لَمَّا، لو، لَوْلا، لَمَّا، إِذَا
- كل أشكال ما وحتى
- Verb forms (7,8)
- Hijri calendar
- Prophet's Birthday
- Ramadan, Eid Al Fitr, and Eid al-Adha
- Politics of visibility and recognition in the practice of religious holidays in Jordan/the Arab World
- Power and language: exchanging religious greetings

Topic 6: Important cultural figures

- اسم المفعول
- اسم الفاعل
- اسم الزمان
- اسم المكان
- اسم الآله
- Verb forms (4,10)
- Storyteller
- مسحراتي
- الخطابة
- Priest
- Horoscopes & fortune telling – popular media challenging religious teachings

Topic 7: Final review

- Review of all past subjects and activities for long-term retention