

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 300) Intermediate High Modern Standard Arabic

Total Hours: 105

Recommended Credits: 6

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

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

Description

This course is offered to students who:

- Are comfortable using complex grammatical structures and an actively controlled vocabulary base to conduct conversations and write paragraphs on a range of more advanced topics
- Read and sufficiently comprehend primary source Arabic materials of limited complexity on familiar subjects
- Recognize and utilize the root and pattern system of Arabic grammar for greater comprehension
- Utilize limited vocabulary in advanced contexts with proper subject-verb agreement, adjective agreement and tenses

This course focuses on syntactic structures and the Arabic verb system to advance from compositions at the paragraph level to essays of complexity and length. 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-high level courses, there is an overlap between MSA and Jordanian dialect which gives the students the ability to use the diglossic nature of the Arabic-speaking world in political, social, cultural, and historical topics.

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

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Upon successful completion of the course, students can:

- Demonstrate approximately advanced reading comprehension skills.
- Develop a refined and expanded knowledge of sentence structure and the Arabic verb system.
- Write essays and compositions of increasing length and complexity employing a full range of structures.
- Read a variety of authentic Arabic materials within a normal range of speed with good comprehension and some ability to “read between the lines.”
- Follow news broadcasts directed at native speakers and understand the general ideas.
- Are understood by the native speakers who do not have any experience with foreign students.
- Speak with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations about practical, social, and professional topics.
- Compose stable paragraphs by using the whole tenses (past, present, and future) and utilize syntactic structures.
- Actively describe and compare various topics in a controlled manner.
- Read an advanced Arabic novel.
- Progress from the ACTFL Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low level to Advanced-Mid.

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 ten pages which includes a description of one of the topics mentioned in the outline below. Students are required to prepare a ten 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%

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- Final Exam: 5%
- Final Oral Interview Exam: 10%
- Final Assignment 20%

Readings

يوسف، منال. لغتي العربية المستوى ٥-٦.

Yosef, Manal. *My Arabic Language, Levels 5-6*. Publication forthcoming.

كنفاني، غسان. رجال في الشمس. مؤسسة الأبحاث العربية. 2002.

Kanafai, Ghassan. *Men in the Sun*. Mu'asasat al-Abhath al-Arabiyya. 2002.

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 elementary and intermediate grammatical structures

Topic 2: Women in Jordan

- Advanced negation
- Patterns (3,6,2,5)
- Passive voice
- Women's agency vs. religious, social, political authority
- Effects on women's development and decision-making

Topic 3: Children in Jordanian society

- جزم ونصب الفعل المضارع.
- Nominal and verbal complicated sentence in the media
- Advanced interviews (Q&A)
- Vulnerable children: child labor, poverty, children outside of marriage
- Inheriting stigmas from parents

Topic 4: Regional history

- Reviewing (الحال، المفاعيل، التمييز)
- الفعل المتعدي واللازم
- Complicated comparison
- History of greater Syria from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire to the Sykes-Picot Agreement
- Nation-building and boundary-defining: effects on national identity for Jordanians, Syrians, Palestinians, and Lebanese
- Present-day Jordan

Topic 5: Well-known Arab figures in religion, culture, politics

- أسلوب الشرط الجازم وغير الجازم (Conditional)

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- كل أشكال ما وحتى
- Verb forms (7,8,4,10)
- King Abdullah and Queen Rania
- Clergy (Christian, Muslim, Jewish)
- Stand-up comedy in Jordan
- Disproportional power of the rich and famous – religion, art, politics, and money as sources of authority

Topic 6: Fortune-telling in Arab society

- Verb forms (1-10)
- أسلوب الاستفهام كامل
- إنَّ، أنَّ، إنَّ، أن
- الأحراف المشبهة بالفعل
- Horoscopes, astrology, & fortune telling – popular media challenging religious teachings
- Cultural influences on the formation of faith

Topic 7: Final review

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