

Beginning Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 1007 (7 credits)

Jordan: Intensive Arabic Language Studies

This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This summer program will focus exclusively on Modern Standard Arabic **فصحى** by addressing the four basic skills of the language: reading, writing, listening and speaking. In particular, the program is designed to develop student conversational skills. While emphasis is based primarily upon oral communication and conversation (i.e., listening and speaking), reading and writing are highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. Students will use a variety of texts and materials, providing experience with descriptive, narrative and argumentative styles in Arabic. This exposure will extend to different textual and stylistic frames, and to main time references. The course is designed not only to help students acquire Modern Standard Arabic, but also to learn attendant cultural aspects of Jordan. Cultural awareness is reinforced through field exercises and the homestay experience. In addition to daily scheduled classes, students will participate in field-oriented educational visits to further enrich their language experiences. Students are in class for four hours daily, with an additional minimum of two to three hours of homework.

Jordanian Arabic

Immediately after arriving in Amman and during the first week of orientation, students participate in a 10-hour introduction to Jordanian Colloquial Arabic that ranges from basic vocabulary and sentence structure to easy dialogues and interactive exercises. The objective of these sessions is to provide students with an elementary background and early familiarity with Jordanian Colloquial Arabic in preparation for the homestay experience.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during first week online.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a functional ability to handle basic daily tasks and interactions with others (culturally appropriate greetings, introductions, market exchanges, relating everyday experiences, asking directions, etc.);

- Show deeper knowledge of Jordanian culturally appropriate behavior associated with language use in a variety of contexts;
- Demonstrate improved capacity to function independently in Jordan and the wider region through knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic.

Course Requirements

Course materials will be drawn primarily from *Alif Baa, Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* and *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya*, Part I (second edition, with DVDs). The work will be supplemented with material from outside sources provided by the instructor.

Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds. K. Brustad, M. Al-Batal and A. Al-Tonsi. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press. 2004. ISBN: 978-1589011021.

Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya with DVDs: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One Second Edition. K. Brustad, M. Al-Batal and A. Al-Tonsi. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press. 2004. ISBN: 978-1589011045.

In addition, we will use various multimedia tools throughout the teaching-learning experiences to further develop language competencies, including television, movies, newspapers and the Internet.

Prerequisite: None

Course Schedule

Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Online week

Week 1:

Tuesday: Orientation: Introduction to program structure, levels, procedures, and content

Wednesday: Testing, Orientation Continued

Thursday: *Alif Baa*, Units 1 & 2: Introduction to Arabic Letters

Listening Activity

Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session

Reading Activity

Writing Activity: The Alphabet

In-Country

Week 2:

Sunday: Units 3, 4, 5 & 6: *Alif Baa*

Listening Activity

Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session

Reading Activity

Writing Activity: Spelling Words Exercise 1
Educational Movie: *Alif is for Asad*

Monday: Units 7, 8, 9 & 10: *Alif Baa*

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: Spelling Words Exercise 2

Tuesday: Lesson 1, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: Essay One
Grammar: Definite Article, Nisba, Questions

Wednesday: Lesson 2, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: Essay Two
Grammar: The Plural, Subject Pronouns, Nominative Sentence

Thursday: Lesson 3, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: Essay Three
Grammar: The Idafa

Week 3:

Sunday: Lesson 3, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: Essay Three
Grammar: Possessive Pronouns

Monday: Lesson 4, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: Essay Four
Grammar: Present Tense

Tuesday: Lesson 4, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity

Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: Essay Four
Grammar: Verbal sentence, Questions

Wednesday: Lesson 5, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: Essay Five
Grammar: Adverbs
Orientation to Southern Excursion

Thursday: South Excursion (Jesus Baptism Site, the Dead Sea, Petra, and Wadi Rum)

Friday: South Excursion Continues (Jesus Baptism Site, the Dead Sea, Petra, and Wadi Rum)

Saturday: South Excursion Debrief

Week 4:

Sunday: Lesson 5, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Six
Grammar: Al-Masdar

Monday: Lesson 6, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Six

Tuesday: Lesson 6, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Seven
Grammar: The verb to be (Kana)

Wednesday: Lesson 7, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Review
Grammar: The Ordinal Numbers

Thursday: Lesson 7, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Eight
Grammar: The Root system and the use of the Arabic Dictionary

Week 5:

*****Mid-term exam***

Sunday: Lesson 7, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Nine
Grammar: The number system 1-10

Monday: Lesson 8, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Nine
Grammar: The Root system and the use of the Arabic Dictionary

Tuesday: Lesson 8, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Ten
Grammar: Numbers 11-100

Wednesday: Lesson 9, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Essay Ten
Grammar: The Ordinal Numbers

Thursday: Lesson 9, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*
Writing Activity: Combined Essay Review
Grammar: Telling the Time

Week 6:

Sunday: Lesson 10, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Final Exam Outline

Listening Activity

Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session

Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*

Writing Activity: Essay Ten

Grammar: The Ordinal Numbers

Monday: Lesson 10, *Al-Kitaab* Part I, continued

Listening Activity

Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session

Reading Activity: *Story Telling Practice*

Writing Activity: Essay Ten

Grammar: The Ordinal Numbers

Tuesday: General Review, *Al-Kitaab* Part I

Writing Activity: Essay Review

Wednesday: Reading Period, Tutoring, Office Hours

Writing Activity: Essay Review

Thursday:

****Final Exam at 2:00 PM****

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Assignments

Students can expect daily assignments both as individuals and as a group. There are several quizzes and oral presentations, in addition to the midterm and final exams. All written assignments should be typed. Texts sent by e-mail will not be accepted. Make sure you have a laptop or computer available and keep back up files so nothing gets accidentally lost or erased.

Seminars

In addition to the culturally based content of the language classes, each week students will also have experiential sessions on different topics related to Jordanian culture, including art, history, gender and society. A specific schedule of seminars will be provided at the start of the program.

Description of Assignments

Quizzes: Daily in-class short quizzes to assess and evaluate learning. Quizzes contain both written and spoken components

Oral presentations: Supervised oral projects that focus on the spoken language. Oral presentations are linked to different themes learned in the language classroom

Midterm exam

Final exam

Participation: Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in language classes, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor and/or fellow students to be prepared for the assignments s/he missed and those scheduled for the next class. On average, students complete two to three hours of homework each night. Given the demands of learning a new language, class attendance is mandatory, while preparedness and participation are highly emphasized. Students receive oral feedback from the instructors throughout the course

Assessment

Quizzes:	15%
Oral presentations:	20%
Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	30%
Participation:	10%

Grading Scale

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

Evaluation

Students receive feedback from instructors throughout the course. The academic director assigns final grades with thorough, frequent, and transparent input from the instructors. Evaluation is a reflection of the student's proficiency, participation, engagement, and progress.

Student Expectations

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.