Intensive Language Study: 
Beginning Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 1000-1500 (3 credits, 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Jordan: Health & Community Development

Course Description
This course will include an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic: both colloquial spoken language and the written script. The course aims to have students critically examine both the language they use on a daily basis and the way this language interacts with local culture. To become familiar with Arabic, students will learn grammatical rules, vocabulary, structure, and methods of forming sentences. These linguistic rules will be tied to local cultural norms to give students a broader understanding of their everyday lives in Jordan and Jordanian society as a whole. Thus, not only does the course aim to have students use Arabic to express themselves in daily life, but also to develop students’ understanding of Arabic culture through different applications of the language. The 3-credit course will be held over 45 academic hours.

Jordanian Arabic
Immediately after arriving in Amman and during the first week of orientation, students participate in a 15 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 estimated-ACTFL oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Jordan.

Course Objectives
Beginning Arabic has an interdisciplinary and experiential focus, encompassing 45 class hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are:
  • To develop proficiency in spoken Arabic;
  • To strengthen listening, comprehension, and communication skills;

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• To use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations;
• To acquire insight into the role of Arabic within Jordanian life and culture.

Expected Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should have mastered the following in Arabic:
• The alphabet, numbers and days of the week
• Getting directions to, and negotiating prices for, transport to local destinations
• Shopping and paying for items and ordering a meal at a restaurant
• Understanding and responding to demographic questions, such as those about nationality/marital status/occupation
• Formally introducing others and using appropriate leave-taking expressions

Course Requirements
Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to frame their daily experiences outside of class.

Readings

ARAB 1000 - 1500 students will use the following books:

For Fusha (MSA):
Omar Othman, Let’s Read and Write Arabic.
Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tons, Al kitab fee ta allum al Arabiyya, Part One, Units 1-3.

For Amiyyeh (Colloquial Arabic of Jordan):
Khulood Kittaneh, Bi elArabi, Level One
Jumana Al Mahameed, Sho ya3ni

PLEASE NOTE: COURSE CONTENTS, LECTURERS AND READINGS MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED. SHOULD ANY CHANGE OF CLASS TOPICS OR LECTURERS BE NECESSARY, STUDENTS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Assignments
Timely completion of all Arabic assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. In addition to this, students are required to attend class and will be graded on attendance and daily participation (absences must be cleared with the instructor ahead of time). Students are also expected to fully participate in all activities related to classroom themes. These include interacting with Arab language and culture partners and guest lecturers, including poets and advanced students of Arabic, who give students opportunities to practice their speaking outside the classroom.

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Attendance and participation: 20%
Final project: 15%
Assignments: 25%
Quizzes: 10%
Exams: 30%

Grading Scale: Final grades will be determined by the total number of points earned in the course. Letter grades for all classes will be assigned according to the following standard curve:

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

Grading Criteria
All grades assigned will take into account the students’ special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. An “A” grade for an assignment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of not only technical correctness, but also in structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logic of writing and consistency. In terms of Class Participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students’ participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Student Expectations

Class Participation
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to students at Orientation.

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