Intensive Language Study: Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 3000-3500 (3 credits, 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Jordan: Health & Community Development

Course Description
This course presents a survey of major concepts in Arabic language and culture, and aims to develop students’ knowledge of 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
Advanced Arabic has an interdisciplinary and experiential focus, encompassing 45 class hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are:

- To gain advanced proficiency in spoken Arabic;

*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.
• To use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations and in addressing a broadening range of specialized topics;
• To explore a variety of media, its representations, and its attendant effects in Jordan;
• To acquire insight into the role and specificities of Arabic within Jordanian life and culture.

Expected Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should have mastered the following in Arabic:
• Understanding and processing information given over the telephone
• Speaking clearly to a group of native speakers on a professional subject
• Listening to, taking accurate notes on, and summarizing a speech or an informal discussion on their special interests
• Understanding and investigating attitudes towards culture

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 everyday life experience.

Readings
ARAB 3000 - 3500 students will use the following books:
For Fusha (MSA): Mahmoud Shafie, Noon wa Alqalam
Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tons, Al kitab fee ta allum al- Arabiyya, Part Two
For Amiyyeh (Colloquial Arabic of Jordan):
Khulood Kittaneh, Jumana Al-Mahamid and Rima Akramawi, Yallah Ndardesh
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.

Attendance and participation: 20%

*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.
Final project: 15%
Assignments: 25%
Quizzes: 10%
Exams: 30%

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:
Final grades will be determined by the total number of points earned in the course. Letter grades 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 structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency.

In terms of Class Participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Academic Seminar 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 Academic Seminar 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.

*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.