

Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 3006-3506 (6 credits / 90 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Jordan: Geopolitics, International Relations, and the Future of the Middle East

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent 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 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. This course aims to have students critically examine both the language they're using 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 6-credit course will be held over 90 academic hours. Classes will meet five days per week, three hours a day.

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 oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Jordan.

Learning 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
- Following discourses on non-technical subjects, e.g. a panel discussion
- 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 daily experiences outside of class.

Required 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

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.

This Arabic language course is designed to give equal weight to developing four skills: reading, writing, listening and conversation. All of the skills will be covered in the Standard Arabic class, and dialect will be taught through the listening and the conversation class.

Weekly schedule:

Sunday: 1:30 – 2:45 Grammar-Reading

3:15 – 4:30 Listening-Conversation

Monday: 9:00 – 10:15 Grammar-Reading

10:45 – 12:00 Listening-Conversation

Tuesday: 1:30 – 2:45 Grammar-Writing

3:15 – 4:30 Listening-Conversation

Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:15 Grammar-Writing

10:45 – 12:00 Listening-Conversation

Thursday: 1:30 – 2:45 Grammar-Writing

3:15 – 4:30 Listening-Conversation

Week 1

This week, students will:

- Review units 10-20 from *Alkitaab 1*
- Students will learn how to distinguish between colloquial and standard Arabic pronunciation, how to introduce oneself and others, and how to talk about their majors
- General review for grammar, transitive and intransitive verbs, and verb conjugation

Week 2

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Unit 1*
- Students will study the active and passive participles, the multiple meanings of verbs and their relation with the root system; verb forms 1-4

- Talk about family relations, giving detailed directions, and describing their daily routines
- Read selected passages from *Noon wa Alqalam*
- Discuss a topic related to Jordanian culture

Week 3

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Units 1 and 2*
- Study the numbers and their relation to time and money
- Learn about several types of subjects and predicates, as well as rules concerning expressing emotions (*altajjob* rules), verb forms 5-6
- Learn to express likes and dislikes
- Talk about their hobbies and use of their free time
- Read selected passages from newspapers
- Narrate past events and write a story using past tense
- Take the mid-term

Week 4

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Units 2 and 3*
- Explain the different verb forms and their meanings
- Read selected passages from *Almujaz*
- Learn to talk about future plans
- Learn proper use of time adverbs
- Write an essay with at least 150 words

Week 5

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Unit 4*
- Study the five types of the verbs; verb forms 7-8
- Learn about shopping and bargaining, the dual and the plural, grammar, colors, and clothing
- Be introduced to the Moroccan accent and culture (in preparation for the excursion to Morocco)
- Watch a documentary movie and have a discussion about it

Week 6

This week, students will:

- Spend more time developing discussion skills on particular subjects of their ISP, focusing on the necessary grammar and vocabulary
- Practice with culture partners
- Learn the root system, verb forms 9-10
- Learn different types of adverbs and passive participles
- Learn colloquial vocabulary needed for the trip to the south of Jordan

If Students in this Level have Already Finished *Alkitaab 2, Units 1-5*, the lesson plan will be adjusted accordingly and lessons will be replaced by starting at Unit 6 of *Alkitaab 2* instead of *Lesson 1 of Book 2*. The revised calendar follows:

Week 1

This week, students will:

- *Alkittab 2*, Unit 6
- Study of vocabulary
- Study of the text, “Pioneer Arab Women’s Movements Before the Revolution”

Week 2

This week, students will:

- Grammar *alism almangoos*
- Learn the defective noun
- Learn *alhal*, the adverb

Week 3

This week, students will:

- *Alkitaab 2*, Unit 7: text *alf laila wa laila*
- Grammar: imperative, negation, *kan wa akhwatuha, ma altajubiyya*

Week 4

This week, students will:

- Complete grammar in Unit 7
- *Alkitaab 2*, Unit 8: a text from Islamic history

Week 5

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2*, Unit 8; Complete discussing the text in Unit 8
- Learn Grammar and verb form 8; different meanings of verb forms
- Learn “ma...min”

Week 5

This week, students will:

- Spend more time developing discussion skills on particular subjects of their ISP’s, focusing on the grammar and vocabulary needed to build expertise in this area.
- Practice with their culture partners
- Review the root system, forms 1-10
- Be exposed to colloquial vocabulary needed for the trip to the south of Jordan
- Take Final Exam

*At the end of the course, students will present their Arabic projects

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of 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.

Assessment:

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

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

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

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>.