

## **Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic**

ARAB 2003-2503 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

**Tunisia and Italy: Politics and Religious Integration in the Mediterranean**

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 is designed to develop student proficiency and communication in Modern Standard Arabic. While emphasis is placed primarily upon oral comprehension and conversational skills (i.e. listening and speaking), reading and writing are highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. Thus, the course is designed not only to help students acquire Arabic, but also to grasp cultural practices in the Arab world. Cultural context is built into the course and introduced through audiovisual materials and experiential activities accompanying the textbook.

Intermediate Arabic provides students a more in-depth background in daily life issues, enabling them to master critical language skills necessary for performing everyday activities. The objective in this level is to review and expand on topics including:

- Traveling
- Relationships
- Ceremonies
- Services (especially public administration)
- Speaking about one's career (personal achievements)
- Biography/autobiography
- Functions of speech
- Cultural and literary subjects

Intermediate Arabic covers grammar and syntactic structures to teach students how to create correct sentences, enabling them to both discuss and write about various topics of study. The main focus, however, is on vocabulary related to themes of culture, literature, and authentic everyday situations. Students participate in field exercises and other activities to gain confidence in interacting with Tunisians and immersing in society. Students are responsible for finding new vocabulary words and expressions matching the assigned field exercises—by using dictionaries and additional texts including newspapers, magazines, and by conducting interviews.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, students will have mastered the following verbal skills in Modern Standard Arabic:

- To explain in detail what they are studying and their life in general in Tunisia and in the USA
- To speak about themselves and about their daily routines, friends and families and to speak in some detail about personal plans
- To describe places
- To speak briefly about their ISP project
- To ask and understand questions in a simple interaction
- To understand weather reports and newspaper headlines
- To formulate basic requests to SIT staff and members of host families
- To narrate a simple event related to their lives in the host culture
- To narrate the key events of a day in the educational excursions
- To make a short presentation about a topic of their choice

### **Tunisian Arabic**

Immediately after arriving in Tunis and during the first week of orientation, students are offered a two-session introductory course on Tunisian Arabic (totaling fifteen hours) 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 Tunisian Arabic in preparation for the homestay experience.

### **Language Levels and Placement**

Non-beginning participants are placed into appropriate language course levels based on estimated-ACTFL oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Tunisia.

### **Course Objectives**

Intermediate Arabic has an interdisciplinary and experiential focus, encompassing 45 class hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are to:

- Expand and strengthen proficiency in spoken Arabic;
- Further develop strong oral/written comprehension and writing skills;
- Use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations and to address a broadening range of topics;
- Acquire insight into the role of Arabic within Tunisian life and culture.

### **Course schedule**

#### **Week 1**

This week students will:

- Greetings and introductions
- Review the first part of Alkitaab, Part 1 (Units 1-5)
- Review gender, the definite article, nisba adjective, asking questions, plurals, non-human plural agreement, nominal and verbal sentences, the iDaafa and noun adjective phrases
- Review possessive pronouns,
- Review subject pronouns, verb conjugation in the present tense, negation, adverbs, demonstrative nouns, the dual and plural forms
- Review lists of vocabulary and speaking activities

#### **Week 2**

Unit 6: أنا خالد

This week students will:

- Listen to a story and learn vocabulary
- Retell the story and use the vocabulary to make similar stories
- Learn the present tense and the different endings
- Talk about daily routine
- Almasdar
- Cohesion: why, in order to /for, because, because of
- Learn about Arabic food

### **Week 3**

Unit 7: أنا أكبرهم

This week students will:

- Learn the story and vocabulary
- Talk about hobbies
- ل و عند و مع و الضمائر
- Learn negation with ( ليس / ما )
- Learn the fronted predicate sentence
- Learn the past tense and negation
- How many / how much
- The dual
- Read news articles in class

Class assignment: Mid Term

### **Week 4**

Unit 8: المستقبل للتجارة

This week students will:

- Learn a story and vocabulary
- Retell the story and use the vocabulary for similar stories
- Learn the past tense and it's use
- Learn past tense negation
- Learn the root and the pattern
- Learn how to use the dictionary
- Numbers

### **Week 5**

Unit 9: جدتي توقظني في السادسة والنصف

This week students will:

- Learn a story and vocabulary
- Retell the story and use the vocabulary to tell similar stories
- Review the conjugation of :كان
- Learn the present /past tense conjugation of : عاد إستطاع
- Learn ordinal numbers
- Learn the time

### **Week 6**

Unit 10: بيت العائلة

This week students will:

- Learn a story and vocabulary
- Speak about family and the different activities during the weekend with friends and

- family
- Learn he conjugation of : بنام يجئ يصحو
- Learn Almasdar and the subjunctive ( almudarii al mansub ) and the prepositions
- Learn the object pronouns

By the end of the course students will present their Arabic project and have the Arabic Final exam

### Course Requirements

Students are responsible for all the required readings and should be prepared to bring them to participate in discussions in class. The readings will help place the classes in their context, challenge and engage lecturers, generate questions for class discussions, and deepen one's knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class.

#### Required Readings:

Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Al-Tonsi, A. (2006). *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya with DVDs: A Textbook for Arabic (Part One, Second Edition)*. Georgetown University Press: Washington, D.C. ISBN: 978-1589010963.

Supplementary teaching materials include:

- Textbook designed by instructors for SIT students
- *Al-Arabiya Al Muaasira*
- Audiovisual materials
- Magazines and newspapers

Several films are incorporated into the course. Films are shown in their original Arabic version and are followed by a class discussion in Arabic.

### Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Timely completion of all Arabic assignments is expected. All written homework must be turned in at the beginning of the class. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation, and presentation of evidence. Tests will not be repeated for absentees. Only certifiable and verifiable absences from tests will be accepted.

Regular attendance, active class participation, daily homework assignments, four tests, and a final examination are required for the successful completion of the course. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor, the tutor, and/or fellow students to be prepared for the assignments s/he missed and the ones scheduled for the next class.

Regular Tests	20%
Class Attendance and Participation	20%
Final Examination	60%

### Grading Scale

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

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**

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, and the provision of factual, numerical, and/or historical evidence. In terms of class participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of student participation will be monitored and taken into account.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Homestays**

As a complement to the language classes, homestays provide students with the opportunity to learn from different people and to use their language skills continually in a multilingual learning environment. Our goal is to help students develop the necessary communication tools which they can use with their host families, neighbors, and Tunisians on the street.

#### **Field Exercises**

Once a week, through field assignments, students enrich their classroom learning experience and their ability to function in real life language situations, assimilate everyday life issues, and immerse in the host culture. Field assignments are done both individually and in groups.

Field assignments may include visits to the following places:

- *Souks*: to practice bargaining skills and interact with community members
- Cafés and restaurants: to experience ordering drinks and food
- Museums and monuments: to learn about historical sites and handicrafts

### **Student Expectations**

#### **Class Participation**

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all Arabic language lectures, discussions, educational excursions, assignments, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. An absent student is responsible for contacting the instructor, the tutor, and/or fellow students to be prepared for the assignments s/he missed and the ones scheduled for the next class.

**Please note that the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may be modified by the Academic Director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants.**

Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

#### **Expectations and Policies**

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

- Respect differences of opinion (classmates, lecturers, local constituents we engage with on site visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

**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](mailto: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>.