

Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 3003-3503 (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. Advanced 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

Advanced 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 tell a story and talk about the different topics discussed in class such as great explorers of the world like Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, Vasco Da Gama, Christopher Columbus, compare and contrast their different experiences.
- Talk and write about special occasions, media and famous writers in the Arab World and in America to compare and contrast their experiences in Tunisia and home
- To explain in detail what they are studying and their life in general in Tunisia and in the USA
- To speak/write about themselves and about their daily routine and the different activities they do with friends and families.
- Talk about present and past habits,
- To speak about their ISP project with examples and more details
- To speak about the different lectures they had in class
- To ask and understand questions in a simple interaction
- To understand news, texts and newspaper headlines
- To formulate basic requests to SIT staff and members of host families
- To narrate events related to their lives in the host culture
- To narrate the key events of a day and describe places visited during 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

Advanced Arabic has an interdisciplinary and experiential focus, encompassing 45 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:

- Review Units from Alkitaab 1;
- Talk about themselves and others
- Review the most important grammatical points from alkitaab 1
- Review verb conjugations, the different tenses and modes, nouns adjectives, agreement, transitive and intransitive verbs

- Review tenses, and learn the difference between narrative and descriptive tenses and their use
- Tell stories and describe places
- Talk about their majors and studies

Week 2

Alkitaab 2, Unit 1: ابن بطوطة وأول رحلة في التاريخ

This week, students will:

- Read the story of ابن بطوطة وأول رحلة في التاريخ and the related vocabulary.
- Study a list of new verbs and their conjugation.
- Practice reading pronunciation and fluency and الإعراب
- Study the relationship between the different أوزان and their meaning, the multiple meanings of verbs, and their relation with the root system, verb forms
- Speaking activity
- Study the الماضي and كان+مضارع
- Study the doubled verb
- كم the numbers and their relation to time and money
- Learn about the Arabic culture

Week 3

Cover Alkitaab 2, Unit2 أعياد و إحتفالات

This week, students will:

- Learn about special occasions , vocabulary,
- Learn about the culture and the different ways to celebrate different occasions
- Learn new Arabic expressions
- Study the relationship between the different أوزان and their meaning, the multiple meanings of verbs, and their relation with the root system, verb forms
- Learn about the active participle and the passive participle , learn the difference between al masdar and the passive participle
- Learn about the dual form in idaafa
- Practice reading news articles

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Week 4

Alkitaab 2, Units 2 and 3 مع الصحافة العربية

This week, students will:

- Read the text بداية الصحافة العربية
- Learn the connected vocabulary
- Learn verb conjugation (past and present tense)
- Speaking activity
- Learn new Arabic expressions and connectors
- Learn about كان و اخواتها
- Review idaafa

- passive and active voice
- Reading activity

Week 5

Alkitaab 2, Unit 4 مهمة الجامعة

This week, students will:

- Reading and learning new vocabulary
- Practice verb conjugation
- Practice

إن واخواتها, إسم المكان, جمع التكسير, الممنوع من الصرف

Week 6:

Unit 6 شخصيات من الأدب العربي الحديث

This week students will:

- Read about شخصيات من الأدب العربي الحديث
- Taoufiq el hakim , daisy el ameer , learn the vocab
- Review vocabulary and grammar from previous units
- Oral presentation :
- 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 Reading:

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

Supplementary teaching materials include:

- Textbook designed by instructors for SIT students
- 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.

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

Grading Scale

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

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|-----------|----|
| 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 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>.