Intensive Language Study:
Beginning Modern Standard Arabic
ARAB 1000-1500 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Tunisia: Emerging Identities in North Africa

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. Beginning Arabic introduces students to pronunciation and writing systems of basic grammar, basic vocabulary and sentence structure. Emphasis is placed on the functional use of the language to enable students to participate in basic conversational exchanges, understand native speakers of Arabic accustomed to dealing with non-native Arabic speakers, complete written compositions describing daily events or personal experiences, and to read basic texts on familiar topics such as weather, seasons, food, family, studies and friends.

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 3 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.

*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.
Course Objectives
Beginning Arabic has an interdisciplinary and experiential focus, encompassing 45 class hours (3 credits). Its main objectives are to:
- Develop emergent proficiency in spoken Arabic;
- Strengthen listening, comprehension, and communication skills;
- Use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations;
- Acquire insight into the role of Arabic within Tunisian life and culture.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the program, students will be able to complete the following linguistic tasks:
- Perform greetings and introduce self and others formally and informally
- Identify objects and items in the classroom
- Order entities sequentially and count numbers from 1-100
- Respond to requests and instructions related to teaching/learning activities
- Respond to requests and instructions appropriately and courteously
- Name days of the week, significant dates and months
- Identify Arab countries, capital cities and main cities
- Identify one’s nationality and that of others
- Quantify entities in response to questions, “how much/how many”
- Ask and respond to factual questions
- Describe objects
- Ask and answer questions about weather and seasons

In addition, students will be able to ask about and indicate ownership, identify academic disciplines, express feelings, accept/decline invitations, understand street/store signs, narrate texts and conversations explained in class (Units 1-9), and converse with classmates about topics discussed and practiced in class. Students will also be able to master essential linguistic structures such as: feminine/masculine, demonstratives (Singular/Plural, Feminine/Masculine), definite article, Wh-questions, possessive pronouns, plural (regular/irregular), nominal sentences, negation with "laya" (nouns and adjectives), verbal sentences, present tense (Feminine/Masculine, Singular/Plural pronouns), prepositions + pronouns, verb patterns (Form I, Form II, Form III, Form IV), nunation (adverbs), noun-adjective phrases, verbal nouns, quantification expressions, comparative, superlative, past tense, the dual, ldhaafa "of" and possessive constructions.

Course Requirements

Readings
You are responsible for all the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class.

Required Texts


Supplementary teaching materials include:

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• Textbook designed by instructors for SIT students
• audiovisual materials
• magazines and newspapers

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
Timely completion of all Arabic assignments is expected. 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 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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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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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 all academic seminar 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

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• Cafés and restaurants: to experience ordering drinks and food
• Museums and monuments: to learn about historical sites and handicrafts

Office Hours
Office hours are scheduled for one hour per week. The teacher may also have additional office hours for students who need further support. For the most effective and constructive management of the language course, students have the opportunity to give their feedback on course content and methodology through written and oral assessments scheduled throughout the semester.

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 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 program dossier given to you at orientation.

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