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

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using dictionaries, additional texts including newspapers and magazines, and by conducting interviews.

**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.

**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.

**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
- To order in a café or restaurant or take a message on the phone
- To speak about themselves and about their friends and families
- To speak in some detail about personal plans
- To describe their hometowns and their neighborhoods
- To speak about their ISP project
- To conduct a simple interview
- 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

**Course Requirements**

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

**Required Texts**

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Supplementary teaching materials include:
- Textbook designed by instructors for SIT students
- Al-Arabiya Al Muaasira
- Audiovisual materials (including films, below)
- Magazines and newspapers

Several films are incorporated into the course, including: Imarat Yakoubian, Ayam Assadet, Abd Alhalim, Abd Ennasr, and Om Kalthoum. Films are shown in their original Arabic version and are followed by a class discussion in Arabic.

PLEASE NOTE: COURSE CONTENT, TOPICS, AND READINGS MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED. SHOULD ANY CHANGE OF CLASS TOPICS OR ASSIGNMENTS BE NECESSARY, STUDENTS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

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 (4) 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.

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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

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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