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. While the previous levels focus on daily life through an emphasis on conversational and communicative approaches, Advanced Arabic addresses increasingly complex issues related to culture, literature, politics, society, sociological studies, and gender, amongst other topics. The structural and grammatical usages of Arabic are emphasized, as necessary linguistic tools for the improvement of the learner’s proficiency and fluency. The overall intended learning objective is to enable students to critically analyze Arabic texts and discourses, and express ideas in Arabic at an appropriate level. Advanced Arabic focuses on reading extracts of articles from journals, magazines, and newspapers, while incorporating music, advanced texts, and film/television. Written assignments aim to reinforce the stylistic and structural competences.

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

- Gain advanced proficiency in spoken Arabic;
- Use the language confidently and effectively in everyday situations and in addressing a broadening range of specialized topics;
- Explore a variety of media, its representations, and its attendant effects in Tunisia
- Acquire insight into the role and specificities of Arabic within Tunisian life and culture

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of Advanced Arabic, students will:

- Read a short story with ease and confidence
- Read and comprehend whole news items from local papers
- Write a personal letter to relatives/host family members
- Write a few paragraphs about one’s personal experience in Tunisia
- Write a few paragraphs about hobbies, interests and academic plans
- Describe the SIT neighborhood of Sidi Bousaid in detail
- Describe their homestay neighborhood in detail
- Take down a few-paragraphs of dictation
- Initiate and sustain conversations with AD, instructors and staff members
- Comprehend all signs and notices on SIT billboards
- Comprehend significant proportions of the media news, both written and oral
- Narrate a day at school in detail
- Talk about current affairs in the Arab world in detail
- Translate a familiar anecdote into Modern Standard Arabic

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

Supplementary teaching materials include:
- a textbook designed by instructors for SIT students
- audiovisual materials including television and film
- print news sources including magazines, newspapers and the Internet.

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.

*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.

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>below 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*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.*
• 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, field trips 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.

*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.