

## Arabic Writing Seminar

ARAB 3050 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:  
Morocco: Arabic Language and Community Service

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 seminar aims to introduce students of the *Morocco: Arabic Language and Community Service* program with no prior background in the Arabic language to the writing skills necessary for the production of a short paper in Arabic, use of an Arabic dictionary, the keyboard, the Internet and other study resources. The content of this seminar will be coordinated by the Academic Director and the Arabic department so students develop the skills required to produce a written paper in Arabic and perform an oral presentation of their field study project. The approach of this seminar is based on combining the Arabic language instruction with the community service while giving priority to the student's academic interest.

### Course Objectives

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

- Explore and develop academic and cultural interests in Morocco
- Master composition techniques in Arabic
- Perform oral presentations on research themes of interest to the student
- Conduct interviews for their Arabic research paper
- Participate actively in lectures in Arabic

### Expected Outcomes

Upon completion of the *Arabic Writing Seminar*, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of how some abstract topics are tackled in Arabic writings
- Show knowledge of use of Arabic dictionary
- Conduct in-depth interviews in Arabic using skills acquired in the seminar
- Demonstrate acquired skills in typing using the Arabic language keyboard
- Apply the Arabic writing, speaking, and study skills gained throughout the program to produce a final type-written paper in Arabic

### Course Requirements

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The *Arabic Writing Seminar* will focus on the learning process that includes mandatory attendance; individual meetings with Arabic instructors and the Academic Director; homework as well as practice of learned tools and methods to conduct a small field project and produce a paper in Arabic. The final written paper will count for 50% of the final grade while attendance, class participation and positive attitude, will count for 20% of the overall grade. Students will be encouraged to produce papers between 3 and 5 pages. The final oral presentation will count for 30% of the grade, and will take place at the end of the program; each student will have 15 minutes to present their field experience and the presentation will be followed by questions and answers from peers and teachers. Students are free to use various aids: visual, music, food, posters, mimics, plays, photos, etc. Students will be encouraged not to rely excessively on written notes, but instead to use creativity in their presentations' delivery. Students will be assessed on the content, the delivery and the creativity. The language level of the student and his/her personal development throughout the seminar will be taken into consideration. A beginner is not expected to produce the same level of paper as an intermediate or an advanced student.

### **Required Readings**

Bacha, N. Nahla. 2002. "Developing Learners' Academic Writing Skills in Higher Education: A Study for Educational Reform », In *Language and Education Journal*, Volume 16, Issue 3, pp 161-177.

Wehr, Hans. *Dictionary (Arabic to English Dictionary)* ISBN: 0-87950-003-4

### **Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

The final grade will be based upon the following:

<b>Written Paper</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Attendance &amp; Active Participation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Oral Presentation</b>	<b>30%</b>

#### **Written Paper (50%)**

Students are expected to submit a final Paper in Arabic based on their initial level and the reached level after 45 contact hours of language instruction. The topic of the paper will vary depending on students' choice and should be relevant to the Moroccan experience and the lecture series in Arabic. Students will have to discuss the subject selected with the AD and Arabic department for final approval. Students may use observation, participative approach and interviewing. The final paper should be typed, 5-10 pages long on A4 format double space, Simplified Arabic font, 16".

#### **Attendance and Active Participation (20%)**

Attendance to methods and techniques of writing a research paper, the lecture series and the individual meetings with the supervisor is mandatory and part of the final grade. Unexcused absences and failure to attend any scheduled classes/meetings/activities will affect the seminar grade. Students are required to actively participate in all the seminar components.

#### **Oral Presentation (30%)**

The final oral presentation is directly linked to the Arabic short paper produced by students. Each student will have 15 minutes followed by questions & feedback from peers, teachers and the AD. Students are free to use various aids, Power Points, music, food, posters, etc. However, we discourage students from relying excessively on written notes. Students will be graded on the content, delivery, and creativity of their presentations.

### **Grading Scale**

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The SIT grading scale is:

94-100% A	77-79% C+
90-93% A-	74-76% C
87-89% B+	70-73% C-
84-86% B	67-69% D+
80-83% B-	64-66% D

A final grade below 64% will result in "F" for the seminar.

## **Student Expectations**

### **Class Participation**

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, educational excursions and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

**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>.

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