Beginning Modern Standard Arabic
ARAB 1006 (6 Credits)

Jordan: Arabic Language (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced)

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 Description
This course will be delivered through 3 weeks of online language learning complimented with 3 weeks in-country immersion. It includes an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic: both colloquial spoken language and the written script. This course aims to have students critically examine both the language they are using on a daily basis and the way this language interacts with local culture. To become familiar with Arabic, students will learn grammatical rules, vocabulary, structure, and methods of forming sentences. These linguistic rules will be tied to local cultural norms to give students a broader understanding of their everyday lives in Jordan and Jordanian society as a whole. Thus, not only does the course aim to have students use Arabic to express themselves in daily life, but also to develop students’ understanding of Arabic culture through different applications of the language. Classes will meet five days per week.

Jordanian Arabic
Immediately after arriving in Amman and during the first week of orientation, students participate in a 10-hour introduction to Jordanian Colloquial Arabic 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 Jordanian Colloquial Arabic in preparation for the homestay experience.

Language Levels and Placement
Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation online.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Write the Arabic alphabet, numbers and days of the week;
- Get directions to, and negotiate prices for, transport to local destinations;
- Shop and pay for items and order a meal at a restaurant;
- Understand and respond to demographic questions, such as those about nationality/marital status/occupation;
- Formally introduce others and use appropriate leave-taking expressions;
• Talk about basic daily routine actions using present tense.

Course Requirements
Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to frame their daily experiences outside of class.

Required Readings:
Omar Othman, *Let's Read and Write Arabic*

Course Schedule
Three weeks of this course are provided online and three weeks in country. Students will be provided a detailed course schedule during orientation on the course.

This Arabic language course is designed to give equal weight to developing four skills: reading, writing, listening and conversation. All of the skills will be covered in the Standard Arabic class, and dialect will be taught through the listening and the conversation class.

Online Module
Week 1
In this week, students will:
• Be introduced to different varieties of the Arabic language, including classical, standard and colloquial Arabic
• Learn basic daily dialogue to communicate

By the end of this week, students will be able to:
• Greet and be greeted
• Start recognizing the letters of the Arabic alphabet in different positions within words
• Communicate on a day-to-day level (students will have approximately 50 pages of essential vocabulary with words related to daily expressions, prepositions, numbers and verbs)

Week 1 schedule:
Sunday: Program orientation and written placement test
Monday: Oral placement test
Tuesday: Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity
Writing Activity: The Alphabet
Wednesday: Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity Writing Activity: Spelling Words
Exercise 1 Educational Movie: Alif is for Asad
Thursday: Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session  
Reading Activity  
Writing Activity: Spelling Words Exercise 2

**Week 2**
In this week, students will:

- Learn how to form nominal sentences, gender in nouns and adjectives and *Alnisba*
- Learn to write using the Arabic alphabet
- Practice reading and writing
- Learn lists of vocabulary and expressions used in the rural areas of Jordan

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Give directions to taxi drivers in Arabic
- Introduce themselves and others in Arabic
- Begin to understand the Jordanian accent
- Ask and answer basic questions.

**Week 2 schedule:**

**Sunday:**
- Listening Activity
- Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
- Reading Activity: Essay One
- Grammar: Definite Article, Nisba, Questions

**Monday:**
- Listening Activity
- Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
- Reading Activity
- Writing Activity: Essay Two Grammar: The Plural, Subject Pronouns, Nominaative Sentence

**Tuesday:**
- Listening Activity
- Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
- Reading Activity Writing Activity: Essay Three
- Grammar: The Idafa

**Wednesday:**
- Listening Activity
- Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
- Reading Activity Writing Activity: Essay Three
- Grammar: Possessive Pronouns

**Thursday:**
- Listening Activity
- Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
- Reading Activity
- Writing Activity: Essay Four
- Grammar: Present Tense

**Week 3**
This week, students will:

- Learn how to form short sentences and questions
- Take the mid-term

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Understand plural forms and subject pronouns
• Use some main verb conjugations, like to want and to have
• Relate verbs to cultural contexts
• Talk about their families and friends

Week 3 Schedule:
Sunday: Listening Activity
         Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
         Reading Activity
         Writing Activity: Essay Four
         Grammar: Verbal sentence, Questions
Monday: Listening Activity
         Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
         Reading Activity
         Writing Activity: Essay Five
         Grammar: Adverbs
Tuesday: Listening Activity
         Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
         Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
         Writing Activity: Essay Six
         Grammar: Al-Masdar
Wednesday: Listening Activity
          Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
          Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
          Writing Activity: Essay Six
          Grammar
Thursday: Listening Activity
         Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
         Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
         Writing Activity: Essay Seven
         Grammar: The verb to be (Kana)

In-country Module
Week 1
This week, students will:
• Learn alidaafa and possessive pronoun rules
• Learn prepositions and adverbs

By the end of this week, students will be able to:
• Form polite requests and conjugate some essential verbs
• Speak in more depth about food and drinks

Week 1 Schedule:
Sunday: In country orientation
Monday: In country Orientation
Tuesday: Listening Activity
         Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
Writing Activity: Essay Review
Grammar: The Ordinal Numbers

Wednesday: Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
Writing Activity: Essay Eight
Grammar: The Root system and the use of the Arabic Dictionary

Thursday: Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
Writing Activity: Essay Nine
Grammar: The number system 1-10

Week 2
This week, students will:
• Learn how to conjugate the present tense and to negate sentences
• Be introduced to the Moroccan accent and aspects of Moroccan culture
• Learn Arabic numbers, in relation to counting, time and shopping

By the end of this week, students will be able to:
• Express likes and dislikes
• Talk about their hobbies

Week 2 Schedule:
Sunday: Mid Term Exam
Monday: Excursion (Dead Sea, Petra, and Wadi Rum)
Tuesday: Excursion continues (Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum)
Wednesday: Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
Writing Activity: Essay Nine
Grammar: The Root system and the use of the Arabic Dictionary

Thursday: Listening Activity
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session
Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice
Writing Activity: Essay Ten
Grammar: Numbers 11-100

Week 3
This week, students will:
• Learn Adverbs, noun-adjective phrases and demonstrative adjectives.
• Learn how to conjugate verbs in the imperative, the present simple, and the future tense
• Learn about time and adverbs of time
• Take final exam

By the end of this week, students will be able to:
• Learn how to fix an appointment with someone (applicable to the Language Final project)

Week 3 Schedule:

Sunday:  
Listening Activity  
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session  
Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice  
Writing Activity: Essay Ten  
Grammar: The Ordinal Numbers

Monday:  
Listening Activity  
Speaking Activity: Oral Practice Session  
Reading Activity: Story Telling Practice  
Writing Activity: Combined Essay Review  
Grammar: Telling the Time

Tuesday:  
Final Exam and Final Projects’ Presentation Preparation

Wednesday:  
Final Exam

Thursday:  
Final Projects’ Presentations

*At the end of the course, students will present their Arabic projects

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

Description of Assignments:  
Timely completion of all Arabic assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. In addition to this, students are required to attend class and will be graded on attendance and daily participation (absences must be cleared with the instructor ahead of time). Students are also expected to fully participate in all activities related to classroom themes. These include interacting with Arab language and culture partners and guest lecturers, including poets and advanced students of Arabic, who give students opportunities to practice their speaking outside the classroom.

Assessment:  
Attendance and participation  20%  
Final project  15%  
Assignments  25%  
Quizzes  10%  
Exams  30%

Grading Scale  
94-100%  A  
90-93%  A-  
87-89%  B+  
84-86%  B  
80-83%  B-  
77-79%  C+  
74-76%  C
Grading Criteria:
All grades assigned will take into account the students’ special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. An “A” grade for an assignment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of not only technical correctness, but also in structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logic of writing, and consistency.

In terms of Class Participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students’ participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Expectations and Policies

• **Show up prepared.** Be on time. Have your Reading 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** (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

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.

**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.