

## Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 2006-2506 (6 Credits)

### Jordan: Geopolitics, International Relations, and the Future of the Middle East

*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 presents a survey of major concepts in Arabic language and culture, and aims to develop students' knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic: both colloquial spoken language and the written script.

This course aims to have students critically examine both the language they're 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, three hours a day.

#### Jordanian Arabic

Immediately after arriving in Amman and during the first week of orientation, students participate in a 15-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 in Jordan.

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe in Arabic their present or recent studies and/or activities in detail
- Give a command or take a message over the phone
- Speak in depth about themselves and their homestay families

- Give a brief autobiography and describe personal plans and hopes
- Describe the geography of a familiar location
- Describe the basic structure of their ISP project
- Conduct a simple interview
- Understand a native speaker (at least about 80% of the time)
- Use the language to assist someone who does not know it

### **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:

ARAB 2000 - 2500 students will use the following books:

For Fusha (MSA):

Omar Othman, *Let's Read and Write Arabic*

Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tons, *Al kitab fee ta allum al-Arabiyya, Part One*; starting from Unit 10.

### **Course Schedule**

\*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

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.

#### Weekly schedule:

Sunday: 1:30 – 2:45 Grammar-Reading

3:15 – 4:30 Listening-Conversation

Monday: 9:00 – 10:15 Grammar-Reading

10:45 – 12:00 Listening-Conversation

Tuesday: 1:30 – 2:45 Grammar-Writing

3:15 – 4:30 Listening-Conversation

Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:15 Grammar-Writing

10:45 – 12:00 Listening-Conversation

Thursday: 1:30 – 2:45 Grammar-Writing

3:15 – 4:30 Listening-Conversation

#### **Week 1**

This week, students will:

- Be introduced to different varieties of the Arabic language, including classical, standard, and colloquial Arabic
- Learn more detailed greetings
- Learn how to form sentences, questions, and answers

- Review the first part of *Alkitaab, Part 1* (Units 1-5)
- Review verb conjugation, demonstrative nouns, the dual and plural forms
- Review lists of vocabulary and colloquial expressions to prepare students for their stay in rural Jordan

#### Week 2

This week, students will:

- Learn from *Alkitaab, Part 1, Unit 6*
- Learn verb conjugation for the imperative and present tenses
- Learn the different endings for present tense
- Study *Alidaafa*
- Study the ordinal numbers
- Begin to understand a rural Jordanian accent (in preparation for one-week stay in rural Jordan)
- Learn how to give directions and more useful words regarding transportation

#### Week 3

This week, students will:

- Learn from *Alkitaab, Part 1, Unit 7*
- Study the numbers and their relation to time and money
- Learn adverbs of time
- Take the mid-term

#### Week 4

This week, students will:

- Learn from *Alkitaab, Part 1, Unit 8*
- Study sentence structure
- Study grammatical rules concerning: comparatives, adverbs, sentences with numbers, and active and passive participles

#### Week 5

This week, students will:

- Learn from *Alkitaab, Part 1, Unit 9*
- Learn how to conjugate the present tense, negate sentences, and form sentences
- Learn how to conjugate verbs in the past and future tense
- Further study the structure of nominal sentences, and verb forms
- Study the infinitive forms by examining excerpts from the media and Arabic literature
- Be introduced to the Moroccan accent (in preparation for upcoming excursion to Morocco)

#### Week 6

This week, students will:

- Learn from *Alkitaab, Part 1, Unit 10*

- Learn adverbs, noun-adjective phrases and demonstrative adjectives
- Describe their daily activities in detail
- Practice some basic interviewing skills (to help with ISP's)
- Learn more about Arabic sentence connectors and *inna* as a particle
- Review what has been learned throughout the course
- Take the final exam

\*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
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

### 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.

## **Student Expectations**

**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>.