

## Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 3003-3503 (3 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.*

#### 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. It aims to have students critically examine both the language they use 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.

#### 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:

- Understand and process information given over the telephone;
- Communicate with a group of native speakers on a professional subject;
- Listen to, take accurate notes on, and summarize a speech or an informal discussion on their special interests;
- Understand and investigate attitudes towards culture.

## 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:

Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tonsi. (2013) *Al kitab fee ta allum al-Arabiyya*, Part Two (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

Mahmoud Shafie. (2008). *Noon wa Alqalam* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Amman).

## 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.

### Week 1

This week, students will:

- Review units 7-13 from *Alkitaab 1*;
- Learn how to distinguish between colloquial and standard Arabic pronunciation, how to introduce oneself and others, and how to talk about their majors;
- Review grammar, transitive and intransitive verbs, and verb conjugation;
- Read texts related to health issues.

### Week 2

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Unit 1*;
- Study the active and passive participles, the multiple meanings of verbs and their relation with the root system, verb forms 1-4;
- Talk about family relations, give detailed directions, and describe their daily routines;
- Read selected passages from *Noon wa Alqalam*;
- Discuss a topic related to Jordanian culture and health.

### Week 3

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Units 1 and 2*;
- Study the numbers and their relation to time and money;
- Learn about several types of subjects and predicates, as well as rules concerning expressing emotions (*altajjob* rules), verb forms 5-6;

- Learn to express likes and dislikes;
- Talk about their hobbies and use of their free time;
- Read selected passages related to health and environment from newspapers;
- Narrate past events and write a story using past tense;
- Take the midterm exam.

#### **Week 4**

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Units 2 and 3*;
- Explain the different verb forms and their meanings;
- Read selected passages from *Almujaz*;
- Learn to talk about future plans;
- Learn proper use of time adverbs;
- Write an essay with at least 150 words.

#### **Week 5**

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Unit 4*;
- Study the five types of the verbs, verb forms 7-8;
- Learn about shopping and bargaining, the dual and the plural, grammar, colors, and clothing;
- Watch a documentary movie about health and have a discussion about it.

If students in this level have already finished *Alkitaab 2, Units 1-4*, the lessons will be adjusted accordingly and lessons will start at Unit 5 of *Alkitaab 2* instead of *Lesson 1 of Book 2*. The revised calendar follows:

#### **Week 1**

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Unit 5*;
- Spend more time developing discussion skills on particular subjects of their ISP, focusing on the necessary grammar and vocabulary;
- Practice with culture partners;
- Learn the root system, verb forms 9-10;
- Learn different types of adverbs and passive participles;
- Learn colloquial vocabulary needed for the trip to the south of Jordan.

#### **Week 2**

This week, students will:

- Study vocabulary;
- Study text.

### **Week 3**

This week, students will:

- Study *Alkittab 2*, Unit 6;
- Study grammar.

### **Week 4**

This week, students will:

- Study *Alkitaab 2*, Unit 7;
- Study grammar.

### **Week 5**

This week, students will:

- Complete grammar in Unit 7;
- Complete discussing the text in Unit 7;
- Take final exam.

\*At the end of the course, students will take final exam and 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>.