

Beginning Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 1003-1503 (3 credits)

Jordan: Psychology, Wellbeing, and Mental Health

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 includes an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic: both colloquial spoken language and the written script. 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. The 3-credit course will be held over 45 academic hours.

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:

- 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.

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:

K. Brustad, M. Al-Batal, and A. Al-Tonsi. (2011). *Al kitab fee ta allum al Arabiyya, Part One, Units 1-4*, (3rd edition).

K. Brustad, M. Al-Batal, and A. Al-Tonsi. (2009). *Alif Baa with multi-media*, (2nd edition).

Course Schedule

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:

- 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 25 pages of essential vocabulary with words related to daily expressions, prepositions, numbers, and verbs).

Week 2

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 1, Unit 1*;
- 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 related to health and daily life.

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 accent they will hear in their one-week stay in the south of Jordan.

Week 3

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 1, Unit 2*;
- Learn how to form short sentences and questions.

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 and health contexts;
- Talk about their families and friends.

Week 4

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 1, Unit 3*;
- Learn *alidaafa* and possessive pronoun rules;
- Take the midterm exam.

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, drinks, body parts, and health-related terms.

Week 5

This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 1, Unit 4*;
- Learn how to conjugate the present tense and to negate sentences;
- Learn Arabic numbers in relation to counting, time, and shopping;
- Learn in a café, restaurant, and a grocery shop.

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

- Express likes and dislikes;
- Talk about their hobbies.
- Learn how to fix an appointment with someone (applicable to the ISP project)

*At the end of the course, students will present their Final Arabic projects and have Arabic Final Exam.

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.

Program Expectations

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings 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 accordingly 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 (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.
- Storing Your Work: Keep several copies of your work as back up and keep one copy accessible to you through an online forum, such as an attachment in your email, the course learning management system, or cloud-based storage. This way your work will always be available to despite technical issues. Lost files, deleted drives, or computer crashes are not excuses for late, missing work.
- Personal Technology Use: Cell phones and other personal electronics can be used for taking notes and other class activities. Off-task usage is not acceptable. You may be

marked as absent for habitually using them for something other than classroom activities.

- **Course Communication:** Course documents and assignments will be posted on the learning management system, Canvas. Although the course calendar provides a broad overview and the general sequence of work and assignments for the course, what we accomplish in class will vary, and revisions to the calendar will be posted at the course site. You will need to check the course site regularly. You are responsible for letting me know about any network-related problems that prevent you from accessing or submitting assignments.
- **Content Considerations:** Some texts and activities you will encounter in this course delve into sensitive topics that may be emotionally and intellectually challenging. Our classroom is a space where we can engage with challenging ideas, question assumptions, and navigate difficult topics with respect and maturity. As possible, I will flag content and activities that are especially graphic or intense, so we are prepared to address them soberly and sensitively. If you are struggling to keep up with the work or participate in the course because of the nature of the content and activities, you should speak with me and/or seek help from counseling services.
- **Classroom recording policy:** To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

SIT Policies and Resources

Please refer to the [SIT Study Abroad Handbook](#) and the [Policies](#) section of the SIT website for all academic and student affairs policies. Students are accountable for complying with all published policies. Of particular relevance to this course are the policies regarding: academic integrity, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), research and ethics in field study and internships, late assignments, academic status, academic appeals, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and misconduct, and the student code of conduct.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook and SIT website for information on important resources and services provided through our central administration in Vermont, such as [Library resources and research support](#), [Disability Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.