

Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 3003-3503 (3 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.

Description

This six-week online 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 the language they use on a daily basis. 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 everyday life 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.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted either during the week prior to the start of the program or during orientation online.

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 and to generate questions for class discussions.

Required Readings:

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

Mahmoud Shafie. (2008). *Noon wa Alqalam* (1st Edition, Amman).

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.

Weeks 1 and 2

In the first two weeks, students will:

- Quickly review units 9-13 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;
- Read texts related to health issues.

Weeks 3 and 4

In these two weeks, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Unit 1 and 2*;
- Study the active and passive participles, the multiple meanings of verbs and their relation with the root system, verb forms 1-6;
- Talk about family relations, give detailed directions, and describe their daily routines;
- Read selected passages from *Noon wa Alqalam*;
- Read selected passages related to health and environment from newspapers;
- Narrate past events and write a story using past tense;
- Take their midterm evaluation.

Weeks 5 and 6

During these last two weeks, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Units 3 and 4*;
- 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);
- Talk about their hobbies and use of their free time;
- Read selected passages from *Almujaz*;
- Learn to talk about future plans;
- Write an essay with at least 150 words;
- Take the final evaluation.

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:

Weeks 1 and 2

In the first two weeks, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 2, Unit 5*;
- Spend more time developing discussion skills on particular subjects, 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;

Weeks 3 and 4

During these two weeks, students will:

- Study *Alkittab 2, Unit 6*;
- Study grammar;
- Study text;
- Take their midterm evaluation.

Weeks 5 and 6

In these last two weeks, students will:

- Study *Alkitaab 2, Unit 7*;
- Study grammar;
- Take final evaluation.

*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 class themes.

Assessment:

Attendance and participation	20%
Final project	25%
Assignments	25%
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, 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.

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.