

Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 3006-3506 (6Credits)

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 90-hour, 6-credit course offers an expanded and in-depth exploration of advanced concepts in Modern Standard Arabic and Arab cultures, fully aligned with ACTFL proficiency standards and the five C's: communication, culture, comparisons, connections, and community. Students will advance their linguistic proficiency through extensive practice in grammar, vocabulary development, sentence formation, and the integrated four skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—while also gaining sustained exposure to Jordanian colloquial speech.

The curriculum emphasizes the dynamic relationship between language and culture, enabling learners to analyze how linguistic structures, expressions, and interaction patterns reflect and shape everyday life in Jordan and the wider Arab region. With double the instructional time, students engage in project-based learning, culturally immersive activities, community interactions, and advanced communicative tasks that foster both linguistic accuracy and intercultural competence.

Designed to support practical communication as well as academic and professional applications of Arabic, this course provides a comprehensive foundation for advanced study, research engagement, and meaningful participation in Arabic-speaking communities.

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

- Express themselves fluently, accurately, and confidently in a wide range of daily, academic, and professional contexts, using advanced MSA structures and vocabulary.
- Analyze and interpret complex authentic texts—including news, academic writing, policy documents, and cultural commentary—demonstrating strong reading comprehension and critical engagement.
- Produce extended oral and written discourse such as presentations, reports, reflections, and analytical essays with higher levels of cohesion, complexity, and cultural sensitivity.
- Demonstrate deep understanding of Jordanian and broader Arab cultural practices, values, and social interaction norms, applying this awareness in meaningful communication.

- Engage in intercultural dialogue and community interaction, using Arabic as a tool for comparative cultural analysis and community-based learning.
- Use a broad range of advanced vocabulary and expressions, including terminology related to politics, society, media, environment, and contemporary regional issues.
- Synthesize information from spoken and written sources and articulate informed opinions supported by evidence in MSA.
- Translate, paraphrase, and summarize advanced-level texts between Arabic and English while maintaining meaning, tone, and contextual accuracy.

Jordanian Arabic

Students enrolled in this course in Jordanian Colloquial Arabic, a central variety of the broader Levantine dialect, will move beyond introductory exposure to develop advanced proficiency in authentic communication across daily, academic, and professional contexts. Building on prior knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic and basic colloquial structures, the course provides systematic training in complex vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and culturally embedded discourse patterns through intensive practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Learners engage with films, media broadcasts, literature excerpts, and community-based projects, while participating in extended dialogues, debates, and role plays that mirror real-life interaction in Jordanian society. Emphasis is placed on sociolinguistic and cultural dimensions—including registers of formality, gendered speech, humor, and pragmatics—enabling students to critically analyze diglossic dynamics and apply colloquial Arabic as a tool for intercultural dialogue, academic research, and civic engagement. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate fluency, cultural competence, and the ability to integrate colloquial and standard Arabic registers in both oral and written discourse.

Language of Instruction

This course is taught primarily in Arabic. Students are immersed in Modern Standard Arabic and Jordanian Colloquial Arabic from the outset, with English used only for occasional clarification or linguistic comparison. Instruction is delivered through Arabic-language materials, classroom interaction, and experiential learning activities. Students develop their language proficiency through Arabic-based lectures, guided practice, and cultural engagement, enabling them to build confidence and fluency in real-life contexts.

Instructional Methods

This course is grounded in experiential and communicative language teaching methodologies, aligned with ACTFL proficiency guidelines for advanced-level learners. It is designed to create an immersive, student-centered environment that fosters meaningful language acquisition through real-world application and cultural engagement.

Instructional methods include:

- **Experiential Learning:** Students engage in authentic communicative tasks—such as navigating transportation, ordering food, and interacting with host families—that connect classroom content to lived experiences.
- **Task-Based and Functional Instruction:** Lessons are structured around real-life functions (e.g., introducing oneself, asking for directions), enabling students to use Arabic purposefully and confidently in daily interactions.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Pair and group activities promote peer interaction, dialogue practice, and cooperative problem-solving, reinforcing both linguistic skills and intercultural awareness.
- **Cultural Activities:** Students participate in hands-on cultural experiences that deepen their understanding of Jordanian society and enhance language use in context. These include preparing traditional meals with host families, learning dabke (Jordanian folk dance), practicing Arabic calligraphy, and engaging in local customs and rituals such as weddings and family celebrations.

This integrated approach ensures that students not only develop foundational skills in Modern Standard Arabic and Jordanian Colloquial Arabic, but also cultivate the confidence,

Adaptability, intercultural competence, and critical cultural awareness essential for sophisticated and effective communication in diverse Arabic-speaking environments.

Required Texts:

- Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Al-Tonsi, A. (2011). *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part One* (3rd ed.). Georgetown University Press.
- Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Al-Tonsi, A. (2011). *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Two* (3rd ed.). Georgetown University Press.
- Brustad, K., Al-Batal, M., & Al-Tonsi, A. (2011). *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic, Part Three* (3rd ed.). Georgetown University Press.
- Additional instructional materials—including worksheets, audio recordings, and curated vocabulary lists—will be provided by the instructor throughout the course.
- Supplementary readings and cultural resources will be assigned based on weekly themes, field activities, and student interests to support deeper engagement with Jordanian society and Arabic language use in context.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

1. Interactive Language Tasks and Cultural Engagement (15%)

Students will complete weekly communicative tasks that integrate language and culture, such as role-playing daily scenarios (e.g., shopping, dining, asking for directions), participating in cultural activities (e.g., cooking traditional meals, learning dabke, practicing Arabic calligraphy), and engaging with host families. Assignments will be assessed based on linguistic accuracy, cultural relevance, and active participation.

2. Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes (20%)

Short quizzes will be administered regularly to assess students' mastery of vocabulary, grammatical structures, and script recognition. These quizzes are designed to reinforce classroom learning and track individual progress.

3. Midterm Examination (15%)

The midterm exam will measure students' progress in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It will include vocabulary and grammar application, short reading passages, basic writing tasks, and brief communicative prompts. The midterm serves as a checkpoint to assess developing proficiency and guide instructional adjustments.

4. Final Arabic Project (15%)

Students will prepare and present a final project in Arabic, demonstrating their ability to use learned vocabulary and structures to describe personal experiences, cultural observations, or thematic topics. Projects may include oral presentations, visual posters, or short written compositions. Evaluation will consider clarity, creativity, and linguistic competence.

5. Final Examination (25%)

The final exam will assess students' proficiency across all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It will include comprehension tasks, sentence formation, short dialogues, and script-based exercises. The exam reflects cumulative learning and prepares students for continued Arabic study.

6. Attendance and Participation (10%)

Active involvement in all course components is essential. Students are expected to attend all sessions, arrive on time, and engage respectfully and consistently in classroom discussions, group work, and cultural excursions.

Attendance and Participation

Due to the immersive and experiential nature of SIT Study Abroad language programs, full attendance and active participation in all class sessions, cultural activities, and program excursions are mandatory. Student performance is evaluated not only through academic assignments but also through consistent engagement in all components of the course. Students are expected to contribute meaningfully to classroom discussions, language practice, and cultural interactions.

Participation includes punctuality, respectful behavior, and a willingness to communicate in Arabic to the best of one's ability. Absences—whether from class, field visits, or scheduled cultural events—must be communicated in advance and approved by the academic director or designated staff. Unexcused absences may negatively affect academic standing, final grades, and overall program continuity. Students may not opt out of required activities, as each component is integral to the learning experience and language development.

Late Assignments

SIT Study Abroad language programs combine classroom instruction with experiential learning, cultural immersion, and field-based activities. The curriculum is designed to build sequentially toward key outcomes such as final projects, presentations, and applied language tasks. Timely completion of assignments is essential to ensure students benefit from the cumulative nature of the course and maintain consistent progress in language acquisition. Students may request a justified extension for one assignment during the semester. Requests must be submitted in writing at least 12 hours before the posted deadline. If the reason is accepted, an extension of up to one week may be granted. No additional extensions will be approved. Assignments not submitted within the extension period will receive a failing grade ('F'). Late submissions without prior approval will be penalized and may affect the final course grade

Grading Scale:

94-100%	A	74-76%	C
90-93%	A-	70-73%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
84-86%	B	64-66%	D
80-83%	B-	below 64%	F
77-79%	C+		

Program Expectations

Students in Advanced Modern Standard Arabic are expected to demonstrate academic professionalism by preparing thoroughly through readings and independent research, submitting original work on time, and engaging critically in Arabic during discussions, presentations, and interactions with guest speakers and cultural partners. Respect for diverse perspectives and mature engagement with sensitive topics are essential, while personal devices must be used strictly for class-related purposes. All course materials and updates will be available on OneDrive, which students are required to check regularly, and consistent attendance, punctuality, and intellectual contribution are fundamental to success in this course.

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](#), [Accessibility Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.

Course Schedule

Students enrolled in ARAB 3006–3506 (Advanced Modern Standard Arabic, 6 credits) are expected to demonstrate professional academic standards by preparing thoroughly through readings and independent research, submitting original work on time, and engaging critically in Arabic during discussions, presentations, and collaborations with guest speakers and cultural partners. Respect for diverse perspectives and mature engagement with sensitive topics are essential, while personal devices must be used strictly for class-related purposes. All course materials and updates will be available on OneDrive, which students must check regularly, and consistent attendance, punctuality, and intellectual contribution are fundamental to success in this advanced-level course.

Arabic Course Plan

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: Comprehensive Review

This week, students will:

- Review *Al-Kitaab* Part 1, Units 7–13 at an advanced level, focusing on deeper comprehension and extended vocabulary use.
- Distinguish between colloquial Jordanian and Modern Standard Arabic pronunciation in authentic contexts.
- Refine introductions and discussions about academic majors with greater detail and accuracy.
- Review and expand grammar knowledge, including transitive and intransitive verbs and their use in extended discourse.
- Read and analyze short texts related to health issues.
- Demonstrate comprehension of Units 7–13 through integrated oral and written exercises.
- Introduce themselves and others using both colloquial and standard Arabic with improved fluency.
- Identify and correctly use transitive and intransitive verbs in complex sentences.
- Apply verb conjugation rules accurately in speaking and writing.
- Interpret and discuss health-related texts using appropriate vocabulary and comprehension strategies

This week, students will:

- Cover *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Unit 1 with advanced focus on text comprehension and thematic vocabulary.
- Study active and passive participles, explore multiple meanings of verbs within the Arabic root system, and practice verb forms I–IV.

- Communicate about family relations, give detailed directions, and describe daily routines using expanded vocabulary and structures.
- Read and analyze selected passages from *Noon wa Al-Qalam*.
- Discuss cultural and health-related topics connected to Jordanian society.
- Apply active and passive participles and correctly use verb forms I–IV in spoken and written contexts.
- Connect verb meanings to the Arabic root system and demonstrate accurate usage in communication.
- Communicate effectively about family, routines, and directions with advanced fluency and structure.
- Read, interpret, and analyze selected texts from *Noon wa Al-Qalam* and engage in discussions on Jordanian culture and health.

Week 3: Language in Action: Grammar, Emotions

This week, students will:

- Cover *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Units 1–2, including numbers related to time and money.
- Practice subjects/predicates, *altajjub* rules, and verb forms V–VI.
- Learn to express likes, dislikes, emotions, and personal preferences with accuracy and fluency.
- Discuss hobbies, free time activities, and everyday routines.
- Engage with authentic newspaper passages on health and the environment.
- Apply grammar concepts from Units 1–2 in spoken and written contexts.
- Express emotions and preferences fluently.
- Discuss hobbies, free time activities, and daily routines in Arabic.
- Read and analyze authentic newspaper passages on health and environmental topics.
- Narrate past events and compose a short past-tense story

Week 4: Mastering Verb Forms and Future Narratives

This week, students will:

- Cover *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Units 3–4, and explain different verb forms along with their meanings.
- Read and discuss selected passages from *Al-Mujaz*, focusing on comprehension and vocabulary expansion.
- Use time adverbs accurately in spoken and written tasks.
- Talk about future plans and aspirations with accuracy and fluency.
- Engage in short oral presentations to practice spontaneous speaking.
- Use time adverbs correctly in context.
- Discuss future plans and aspirations using appropriate vocabulary and structures.
- Write a structured essay of at least 150 words, integrating grammar, vocabulary, and cohesive ideas.

Week 5: Advanced Expression and Cultural Analysis

This week, students will:

- Cover *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Unit 5, focusing on advanced vocabulary, complex sentence structures, and thematic readings.

- Analyze selected passages from *Al-Mujaz*, emphasizing comprehension, contextual meaning, and vocabulary expansion.
- Practice expressing opinions and arguments using appropriate connectors and cohesive devices.
- Engage in discussions on cultural topics and social issues relevant to Jordanian society.
- Use advanced connectors and cohesive devices to structure spoken and written discourse.
- Express opinions and arguments with clarity, accuracy, and cultural appropriateness.
- Demonstrate comprehension of authentic texts by summarizing and analyzing key ideas.
- Write a well-organized essay of at least 200 words, integrating grammar, vocabulary, and critical reflection

Week 6: Review and Final Assessment

This week, students will:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of all grammar, vocabulary, and thematic units covered throughout the course.
- Engage in intensive speaking, reading, and writing practice to reinforce advanced proficiency.
- Deliver short oral presentations in Arabic to demonstrate fluency and communicative competence.
- Complete the final exam for the level, assessing reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

If students in this level have already finished *Alkitaab 2*, Units 1-5, the lessons will be adjusted accordingly and lessons will start from Unit 6 of *Alkitaab 2* instead of *Lesson 1* of *Book 2*. The revised calendar follows:

Week 1: From Rules to Real Communication

This week, students will:

- Study *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Unit 6, focusing on comprehension and application of new vocabulary and texts.
- Deepen their understanding of advanced grammar structures.
- Integrate grammar into both oral and written communication.
- Expand colloquial vocabulary relevant to everyday interactions and cultural immersion.
- Apply advanced grammar rules accurately in spoken and written contexts.
- Use appropriate vocabulary and structures to sustain discussions on ISP topics.
- Demonstrate improved fluency and confidence in conversations with culture partners.
- Employ colloquial expressions for practical communication in Jordanian contexts.

Week 2: Language for Everyday Life

This week, students will:

- Study *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Unit 7, focusing on text comprehension, vocabulary expansion, and thematic discussions connected to daily life.
- Deepen grammar study through nominal sentences and advanced agreement rules.
- Explore verb forms XI–XII (if introduced) and their semantic nuances.

- Apply derived nouns (active and passive participles) to real-life descriptions and comparisons.
- Use complex connectors to enhance cohesion in spoken and written communication.
- Demonstrate mastery of Unit 7 vocabulary and readings in everyday contexts.
- Construct nominal sentences using advanced agreement rules with precision.
- Produce cohesive discourse using derived nouns and connectors in conversations and reflections.
- Integrate grammar and vocabulary into ISP-related discussions with greater fluency.
- Describe, compare, and analyze aspects of everyday life in Jordanian and broader Arab contexts.

Week 3: Grammar and Text in Focus

This week, students will:

- Consolidate their study of *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Unit 7, completing all grammar points introduced.
- Engage in in-depth discussion and analysis of the Unit 7 text.
- Apply nominal and verbal sentence structures, derived nouns, and participles in spoken and written contexts.
- Use complex connectors to produce fluent, connected discourse.
- Demonstrate improved confidence in oral communication with culture partners, using both formal and colloquial registers.

Week 4: Exploring Cause and Effect in Jordanian Contexts

This week, students will:

- Cover *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Unit 8, focusing on advanced grammar structures and thematic vocabulary.
- Read and analyze selected passages from *Al-Mujaz*, emphasizing comprehension, cultural references, and vocabulary expansion.
- Practice expressing cause-and-effect relationships using appropriate connectors.
- Engage in discussions about social and cultural issues highlighted in the unit, especially those related to Jordanian society.
- Use cause-and-effect connectors accurately in spoken and written discourse.
- Demonstrate comprehension of authentic texts by summarizing and analyzing key ideas and cultural insights.
- Express opinions and arguments with fluency, accuracy, and cultural appropriateness.

Week 5: Narratives and Storytelling in Jordanian Arabic

This week, students will:

- Cover *Al-Kitaab* Part 2, Unit 9, focusing on narrative structures, sequencing expressions, and thematic vocabulary.
- Read and discuss selected passages from *Al-Mujaz*, emphasizing comprehension and contextual meaning.
- Practice storytelling techniques, including sequencing events, describing settings, and integrating dialogue.
- Deliver short oral narratives (3–4 minutes) to strengthen fluency and accuracy.

- Participate in guided writing workshops to produce structured narratives with clear progression.
- Use sequencing expressions and narrative structures effectively in speech and writing.
- Demonstrate comprehension of authentic texts by summarizing and retelling key ideas.
- Express personal and cultural narratives with fluency, accuracy, and cultural sensitivity.

Week 6: Review and Final Assessment

This week, students will:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of all grammar, vocabulary, and thematic units.
- Engage in intensive speaking, reading, and writing practice to reinforce advanced proficiency.
- Deliver short oral presentations in Arabic to demonstrate fluency and communication skills.
- Complete the final exam for the level, assessing reading, writing, listening, and speaking.