

Modern Language Center (MLC)

(AM/LANG 110) Novice Low Jordanian Dialect

Program: MLC Jordan

Total Hours: 56

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites: Requirements: None.

Description

This introductory course is designed for students with no prior experience in Modern Standard Arabic or Jordanian Dialect. It focuses on building foundational communication skills through high-frequency vocabulary, essential grammar, and practical expressions used in everyday life situations in Jordan. Classes are structured to help students adjust quickly to local interactions upon arrival in Amman.

The course emphasizes communicative proficiency by encouraging students to perform real-life tasks using appropriate language registers. Lessons include both linguistic and cultural components, enabling students to navigate daily interactions, understand Jordanian customs, and engage meaningfully with the local community. Through interactive, student-centered instruction, students learn listening comprehension, conversation strategies, and cross-cultural communication skills.

Objectives

- Recognize and reproduce Arabic sounds and basic script with accurate pronunciation.
- Understand and use elementary grammatical structures.
- Use limited vocabulary in simple contexts with correct agreement and tense usage.
- Compose basic sentences and short paragraphs related to daily life and survival needs.
- Employ present and future tenses in simple contexts.
- Read and comprehend short Arabic texts with familiar vocabulary.
- Infer meaning from context for simple unfamiliar words.
- Engage in basic conversations on predictable daily life topics.

Course Requirements

The course follows an intensive schedule requiring consistent preparation and participation. Students engage in listening activities, vocabulary memorization, reading and writing exercises, and cultural discussions. Regular attendance and active class involvement are mandatory, as they directly impact student progress.

Students complete periodic quizzes, monthly projects, and a final oral interview. At the end of the term, each student must create and record an original skit (individual or group) incorporating course vocabulary and cultural expressions. Additional field-based experiences may include cooking, café visits, or farm activities to enhance cultural immersion.

Grading

- Participation: 20%
- Homework: 20%
- Exams and Quizzes: 30%
- Monthly Projects: 10%
- Final Oral Interview: 10%
- Final Skit: 10%

Readings

My Arabic Language, Level 1 (forthcoming publication)..

Additional Resources

None

Outline of Course Content

The course progresses from basic introductions to simple cultural and conversational contexts. Each topic typically spans two weeks during the semester or one week in the accelerated summer term.

- 1 Topic 1: The Culture of Daily Life in Jordan – the Arabic alphabet, colloquial pronunciation, greetings, simple phrases, and days of the week.
- 2 Topic 2: The Culture of Addresses in Jordan – describing places and directions, using taxis, giving addresses, and understanding local navigation.
- 3 Topic 3: Getting to Know Jordanians – conjugating everyday verbs to describe family and routines; forming simple questions and answers.
- 4 Topic 4: The Culture of Souqs and Bargaining – vocabulary for shopping, negotiation, and describing clothing and personality.
- 5 Topic 5: Simple Descriptions and Cultural Context – describing physical and personality traits, and exploring social ideals such as beauty and etiquette.
- 6 Topic 6: Expressions and Flattery in Daily Conversations – using polite expressions, offering congratulations and condolences, and exploring cultural norms in social communication.
- 7 Topic 7: Written Communication – composing short emails, social media posts, invitations, and announcements while considering cultural and gender dynamics.

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