

Modern Language Center (MLC) (AM/LANG 160) Novice Jordanian Dialect

Program: MLC Jordan

Total Hours: 56

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites: Requirements: ACTFL Novice-Mid to Novice-High level or equivalent.

Description

This course is intended for students who already have basic familiarity with Arabic sounds, script, and elementary grammar, including sentence structure, gender and plural agreement, tenses, and negation. It aims to strengthen communication skills through the Jordanian dialect, allowing students to interact effectively in real-life situations across various cultural and social settings.

Following the communicative approach, students develop functional language skills by learning high-frequency expressions, grammar patterns, and cultural knowledge. The course blends Jordanian colloquial Arabic with basic exposure to Modern Standard Arabic, mirroring the diglossic reality of the Arabic-speaking world. Interactive learning encourages practical use through conversation, listening, and cultural engagement.

Objectives

- Distinguish between Modern Standard Arabic and Jordanian dialect, recognizing phonological, lexical, and syntactic differences.
- Understand simplified grammatical structures of Jordanian Arabic.
- Pronounce words and expressions accurately using Jordanian dialect.
- Communicate effectively in daily life situations such as shopping, dining, transportation, and basic conversations.
- Compose and connect simple paragraphs in Jordanian Arabic.
- Apply the three main tenses (past, present, future) in spoken contexts.
- Use proper subject-verb and adjective agreement within simple dialogue and narration.

Course Requirements

This intensive course requires consistent preparation, active participation, and cultural curiosity. Students complete assignments involving listening, speaking, and writing, and are expected to use the dialect both inside and outside the classroom. Class attendance is essential for success, as participation directly supports communicative development.

Students complete quizzes, monthly projects, and an oral interview exam. They are also required to perform a short skit (individually or in groups) using learned vocabulary and expressions.

Field-based learning activities—such as cooking sessions, café visits, or cultural excursions—are mandatory components of the course.

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

Supplementary materials include authentic Jordanian media and cultural works such as the TV series *Nahafat 'Ayilatna* (Roya TV), and songs by artists including Fairouz, Julia Boutros, Wael Jassar, and Fares Karam. These resources enhance students' understanding of contemporary Jordanian language and culture through authentic audio and video exposure.

Outline of Course Content

Each topic is designed to promote practical communication and cultural understanding. Topics are typically covered over one to two weeks during the semester or one week in the summer session.

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in Jordan – vocabulary for food, clothing, transportation, and home life; directions and address navigation.
- 2 Topic 2: Polite Expressions and Written Etiquette – using polite language, writing short messages and emails, and forming sentences with connectors.
- 3 Topic 3: Religion and Art in Jordanian Culture – religious and artistic expressions, cultural celebrations, and music as identity.
- 4 Topic 4: Local Communication Culture – writing greetings and thank-you notes, understanding social expectations and conversational norms.
- 5 Topic 5: Descriptions from a Cultural Perspective – describing people, weather, and lifestyles; exploring ideals of beauty, class, and tradition.
- 6 Topic 6: Mid-Length Narration – discussing family, work, hobbies, and travel; analyzing cultural influences on lifestyle.
- 7 Topic 7: Real-Life Application – practicing expressions through songs, videos, and contextual conversations.
- 8 Topic 8: Practical Integration – applying learned skills in listening and speaking through authentic media.
- 9 Topic 9: Building Conversations – practicing spontaneous communication through real-world tasks and excursions..

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