

Modern Language Center (MLC)

(AM/LANG 200) Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic

Program: MLC Jordan

Total Hours: 105

Recommended Credits: 6

Primary Discipline: Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language|

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites: Requirements: ACTFL Intermediate-Low or Intermediate-Mid level or equivalent.

Description

This course is intended for students who have prior experience with Arabic sentence structures and basic grammar. Students at this level can compose short paragraphs, utilize a limited range of vocabulary, and use proper subject-verb agreement in familiar contexts. The course builds upon these foundations by introducing more complex syntactic patterns to enable communication and writing at the paragraph level.

Through thematic units, students expand their vocabulary, improve grammatical accuracy, and enhance speaking fluency. By the end of the course, students will be able to comprehend and discuss authentic Arabic texts of limited complexity and engage in conversations with native speakers on familiar topics. Cultural and social themes are integrated to deepen students' understanding of Jordanian society and its diversity.

Objectives

- Achieve clearer pronunciation and more confident speech.
- Understand increasingly complex grammatical structures.
- Actively control an expanded vocabulary and use it appropriately.
- Recognize and apply the Arabic root and pattern system for comprehension and word formation.
- Write compositions at the paragraph level using accurate syntactic structures.
- Read and comprehend authentic Arabic texts of moderate difficulty on familiar subjects.
- Participate in extended social interactions and discussions about family, work, and community.
- Progress from ACTFL Intermediate-Low/Mid to Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low.

Course Requirements

The course is intensive and demands full engagement. Students must come prepared to each session and actively participate. Homework includes listening tasks, vocabulary memorization, reading and writing practice, and review of previous material. Class attendance is essential, as students are encouraged to interact with Jordan's cultural environment. Field-based components such as guest lectures and site visits may be included.

Assignments include a mid-term project where students lead a 20-minute class on one skill (reading, writing, listening, or speaking). The final exam includes a written section and an oral interview evaluating vocabulary, grammar, and communicative ability. A final written assignment (at least seven pages) requires students to summarize and reflect on topics covered in the course, accompanied by a seven-minute presentation using course vocabulary.

Grading

- Participation: 20%
- Homework: 15%
- Presentations: 5%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Mid-Term Project: 10%
- Mid-Term Exam: 5%
- Final Exam: 5%
- Final Oral Interview Exam: 10%
- Final Written Assignment: 20%

Readings

My Arabic Language, Levels 4–5 (forthcoming publication).

Additional Resources

Supplementary materials include authentic 2–3 minute video clips from Arabic media such as Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera, aligned with classroom discussions to reinforce vocabulary and cultural awareness.

Outline of Course Content

Each topic is covered over approximately two weeks during a regular semester or one week during the accelerated summer term.

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in a Different Culture – reviewing elementary grammar, verb forms (1,2,5), family, hobbies, work, religion, and lifestyle.
- 2 Topic 2: New Experiences in Jordan – negation, verb forms (3,6), dual and plural forms, and reflections on studying abroad in Jordan.
- 3 Topic 3: Arabic Media Terminology – verbs common in media, sentence agreement, interviews, and media analysis on politics, economics, and arts.
- 4 Topic 4: Description in Arab Culture – adjective agreement, various grammatical structures (object types, distinction), landmarks, and cultural identity.
- 5 Topic 5: Islam in Jordan – conditional clauses, verb forms (7,8), Islamic calendar, major holidays, and the politics of religious visibility.
- 6 Topic 6: Cultural Figures – noun forms (active/passive participles, time, place, instrument), verb forms (4,10), storytelling, public speaking, and media representation.
- 7 Topic 7: Final Review – comprehensive revision and oral practice for long-term retention.

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