

Modern Language Center (MLC)

(AM/LANG 210) Novice High 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 Intermediate-Low or Intermediate-Mid level or equivalent.

Description

This course is designed for students who have a foundational understanding of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and wish to advance their ability to communicate fluently using Jordanian dialect. It develops practical speaking, listening, and cultural comprehension skills through intensive, interactive instruction. Students learn to navigate complex social and cultural situations, expanding their ability to express opinions, handle problems, and discuss local issues in colloquial Arabic.

The course integrates Jordanian dialect with students' existing MSA knowledge to reflect the natural diglossia of Arabic. Lessons emphasize functional communication in real-world contexts—shopping, transportation, healthcare, and everyday social exchanges—while also addressing sociolinguistic and cultural aspects that shape modern Jordanian society.

Objectives

- Differentiate between MSA and Jordanian dialect in pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax.
- Use Jordanian dialect fluently in daily life situations such as at home, work, or public settings.
- Apply the three major tenses (past, present, and future) in natural conversation.
- Communicate effectively using idiomatic expressions and cultural references.
- Integrate MSA vocabulary with dialectal structures when sociolinguistically appropriate.
- Construct paragraphs and short dialogues using correct grammar and natural phrasing.
- Demonstrate increased awareness of Jordanian social customs and conversational etiquette..

Course Requirements

The course is intensive and requires daily preparation and active participation. Students are expected to engage fully in class discussions, complete homework assignments, and practice communication outside the classroom. Listening, speaking, and writing activities will focus on fluency and accuracy in Jordanian dialect. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory.

Coursework includes quizzes, oral interviews, and a monthly project that connects linguistic and cultural topics. Students must perform an original skit (individual or group) using target vocabulary and expressions. Field-based learning may include visits to cafés, markets, and cultural sites to reinforce classroom learning.

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 covered in approximately one to two weeks during the semester, or one week in the accelerated summer term.

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in Jordan – pronunciation, grammar differences, and everyday communication; etiquette in restaurants, taxis, and markets.
- 2 Topic 2: Expressing Complaints and Refusals – past tense structures, problem-solving expressions, and gender-related cultural norms.
- 3 Topic 3: Long Narration in the Present – using present tense for describing routines, clothing, and social events.
- 4 Topic 4: Future Narration – practicing future forms, discussing goals, and listening to songs about life and planning.
- 5 Topic 5: Cultural Descriptions – describing people, social status, and health; visiting pharmacies and doctors.
- 6 Topic 6: Overcoming Challenges – interacting in real-life contexts such as ordering food, making appointments, and communicating with service providers.
- 7 Topic 7: Local Communication and Social Etiquette – greetings, condolences, religious expressions, and social customs.
- 8 Topic 8: Religious Culture and Holidays – describing traditions during Ramadan, Eid, and Christmas; discussing social and political dimensions of visibility.
- 9 Topic 9: Social and Political Topics – describing social issues, wars, and cultural change using advanced vocabulary and structured narration..

Modern Language Center (MLC)

Email: mlc@mlc.edu.jo

Tel/WhatsApp: +962777890587

Jabal Al-Luweibdeh, Amman – Jordan

Where Every Language Finds Its Voice بانسان لسان كل