

Modern Language Center (MLC)

(AM/LANG 260) Intermediate Jordanian Dialect

Program: MLC Jordan

Total Hours: 56

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

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

Description

This course is designed for students who already have a solid foundation in Jordanian dialect and wish to achieve higher fluency and cultural depth. Students enhance their ability to express complex ideas, use advanced grammar patterns, and engage in extended discussions about everyday life, culture, and society in Jordan.

The course bridges the gap between structured language learning and spontaneous communication. It emphasizes cultural fluency through authentic Jordanian expressions, idioms, and proverbs, preparing students to navigate professional and social contexts naturally and confidently.

Objectives

- Use Jordanian Arabic confidently in complex daily and cultural situations.
- Understand a wide range of authentic spoken materials and identify regional differences in pronunciation and expression.
- Apply advanced grammatical structures and idiomatic phrases in conversation.
- Use all three tenses (past, present, and future) fluently and appropriately.
- Write short essays or summaries in colloquial Arabic reflecting cultural understanding.
- Demonstrate comprehension of Jordanian humor, irony, and metaphor in media and literature.
- Communicate with native speakers using culturally appropriate tone, gestures, and politeness norms..

Course Requirements

This course requires consistent preparation and active participation. Students must complete listening, speaking, and writing assignments and participate in discussions using Jordanian dialect. Attendance is mandatory as in-class interaction and group work are essential for progress.

Students complete a mid-term oral interview, quizzes, and a final skit (individual or group) that demonstrates mastery of cultural and linguistic skills. Cultural immersion activities such as café visits, interviews with locals, or neighborhood tours are encouraged to practice communication in real-life settings

Grading

- Participation: 20%
- Homework: 20%
- Exams and Quizzes: 25%
- Monthly Projects: 10%
- Mid-Term Oral Interview: 10%
- Final Skit: 15%

Readings

My Arabic Language, Level 2 (forthcoming publication)..

Additional Resources

Authentic Jordanian materials, including TV series (*Al-Irbidiyyin*, *Jalta*), songs by artists like Fairouz, Najwa Karam, Fares Karam, and Julia Boutros, and selected short videos or interviews are integrated into the curriculum to enhance listening comprehension and cultural insight.

Outline of Course Content

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

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in a Different Culture – advanced greetings, expressions for emotion and politeness, and conversation repair strategies.
- 2 Topic 2: Religion and Art in Jordan – religious expressions, proverbs, poetry, and musical culture.
- 3 Topic 3: The Role of the Family – complex sentence structures for discussion of family, gender roles, and generational differences.
- 4 Topic 4: Jordanian Society and the Environment – vocabulary related to work, sustainability, and urban development.
- 5 Topic 5: Politics and Identity – discussing social values, nationalism, and cultural identity using advanced idiomatic structures.
- 6 Topic 6: Language of Media and Humor – understanding Jordanian television humor, satire, and figurative language.
- 7 Topic 7: Everyday Challenges – narrating events, expressing opinions, and responding to unexpected situations in spoken dialect.

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Email: mlc@mlc.edu.jo

Tel/WhatsApp: +962777890587

Jabal Al-Luweibdeh, Amman – Jordan

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