

Modern Language Center (MLC) (AM/LANG 300) Advanced 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 Advanced-Mid or Advanced-High level or equivalent.

Description

This course is designed for advanced students who possess strong command of Arabic grammar and vocabulary, and can express ideas confidently in both spoken and written Arabic. Students at this level are able to compose essays, analyze complex texts, and participate in professional discussions across cultural and academic contexts.

The course refines students' linguistic accuracy and depth of expression by focusing on advanced syntactic structures, academic writing, and sophisticated vocabulary. Students are encouraged to engage with authentic Arabic materials—literature, media, and academic texts—and to express opinions, defend arguments, and debate perspectives in a culturally informed manner. Cultural and social themes are explored to deepen understanding of the Arab world and Jordanian society in particular.

Objectives

- Comprehend and analyze a wide variety of authentic Arabic materials including literature, poetry, and news media.
- Use advanced vocabulary and discourse structures to participate in academic and professional discussions with native speakers.
- Write well-organized, coherent research papers of significant length and complexity.
- Follow and understand detailed content in news broadcasts and public discourse intended for native speakers.
- Communicate effectively in formal and informal settings with near-native structural accuracy.
- Read and interpret novels of medium length with good comprehension.
- Progress toward ACTFL Advanced-High or Superior-Low proficiency levels.

Course Requirements

The course is intensive and demands full participation and preparation. Students are expected to engage daily in speaking, reading, writing, and listening activities, as well as in analytical discussions about assigned texts. Attendance and active participation are essential to success.

Coursework includes a mid-term project, a comprehensive final exam, and a major research paper of at least twelve pages, accompanied by a ten-minute oral presentation using course vocabulary

The course may also feature guest lectures, site visits, or cultural events

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 6–7 (forthcoming publication).

Kanafani, Ghassan. *Ard al-Bortuqal al-Hazeen* (The Land of Sad Oranges). 4th ed. Mu'asasat al-Abhath al-Arabiyya, 1987.

al-Muqri, Ali. *al-Yahudi al-Hali* (The Current Jew). 5th ed. Beirut: Dar al-Saqi, 2009

Additional Resources

The course utilizes 2–5 minute authentic video clips from Arabic media such as Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera to complement classroom discussions, promoting listening comprehension and engagement with real-world Arabic usage.

Outline of Course Content

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

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in a New Culture – advanced review of syntax and grammatical structures.
- 2 Topic 2: Social Issues and Media Influence – verb forms (1–10), passive voice, social media, interfaith relations, and civil society.
- 3 Topic 3: Minorities in Arab Societies – conditional structures, identity, citizenship, religion, and Arabic proverbs.
- 4 Topic 4: Jordanian Male Youth Culture – grammatical review, masculinity, stereotypes, and youth identity.
- 5 Topic 5: Regional Political Conflicts – exclamatory forms, colonial legacies, water politics, refugees, and security.
- 6 Topic 6: Moral Authority and Jordanian Law – complex verb structures, ideology, faith, justice, and social ethics.
- 7 Topic 7: Final Review – comprehensive review and oral practice for long-term retention.

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