

Modern Language Center (MLC)

(AM/LANG 350) Advanced High Modern Standard Arabic

Program: MLC Jordan

Total Hours: 105

Recommended Credits: 6

Primary Discipline: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites: Requirements: ACTFL Advanced-High to Superior level or equivalent.

Description

This advanced-high course is designed for students who have mastered complex grammatical structures and can analyze, debate, and write fluently across advanced topics in Arabic. Students engage in deep exploration of literature, culture, politics, and media, expressing nuanced opinions with precision and confidence. The course emphasizes the development of linguistic sophistication and cultural fluency through authentic Arabic texts and discussions with native speakers.

By the end of this course, students are expected to produce accurate and stylistically refined spoken and written Arabic that is easily understood by native speakers across different social backgrounds. They learn to engage tactfully with sensitive cultural and intellectual topics while maintaining advanced communicative competence. Cultural and social themes are integrated throughout to provide insight into diverse Arab perspectives and modern Jordanian society.

Objectives

- Master high-level cultural and linguistic content, including colloquial and religious expressions, literature, and media.
- Attain linguistic fluidity and confidence when discussing sensitive topics with appropriate tone and register.
- Engage in complex debates and present critical opinions supported by evidence and cultural understanding.
- Communicate effectively with native speakers from diverse backgrounds and generations.
- Develop advanced reading comprehension of authentic Arabic materials such as poetry, novels, and analytical essays.
- Progress toward ACTFL Superior or Superior-Mid proficiency level.

Course Requirements

This course requires rigorous preparation and full participation. Students are expected to read extensively, complete analytical assignments, and contribute actively to discussions. Class activities include debates, reading authentic materials, research writing, and interactions with Jordanian society through lectures and field activities.

Major assignments include a mid-term project, a comprehensive final exam, and a research paper of no less than twelve pages. Students must also deliver a ten-minute presentation based on their research, demonstrating command of advanced vocabulary and complex structures.

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

Adonis. *al Kitab, al Khitab, al Hijab*. 1st ed. Beirut: Dar al Adab, 2008. Adonis.

"Thought, Takfir (Excommunication)." *Adonis* 9–13.

Adonis. "Fatwa Culture." *Adonis* 85–89. Adonis.

"Security Culture." *Adonis* 90–93.

Barakat, Halim. *al Mujtama' al 'Arabi al Mu'asir* (Contemporary Arab Society). 4th ed. Beirut: Center for Arab Unity Studies, 2012.

Thabet, Abdullah. *al Irhabi 'Ishrin* (The Twentieth Terrorist). 5th ed. Beirut: Dar al Saqi, 2009.

al Jabri, Muhammad Abed. *Mas'ala al Huwiyya al 'Uruba wa al Islam... wa al Gharb* (The Issue of Identity: Arabism, Islam, and the West). 2nd ed. Beirut: Center for Arab Unity Studies, 1995.

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

Munif, Abdul Rahman. *al Ashjar wa Ightiyal Marzuq* (Trees and the Assassination of Marzuq). 12th ed. Beirut: Arab Institute for Research and Publishing, 2005.

Additional Resources

The course incorporates authentic 2–5 minute video materials from Arabic news outlets such as Al Arabiya, Al Jazeera, and Al Mayadeen. These are used to stimulate discussion and analysis of regional cultural and political issues relevant to course topics.

Outline of Course Content

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

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in a New Culture – comparison of lifestyles across societies, grammar review, and literary analysis through film and text.
- 2 Topic 2: Criticism of Arab-Religious Heritage and Thought – verb forms (1–10), stylistic praise and criticism, religious authority, freedom of opinion, and works by Adonis.
- 3 Topic 3: Contemporary Arab Society – rhetorical features, family and social organization, religion's role in shaping Arab society, and socio-political structures.
- 4 Topic 4: Political Identity in the Arab World – review of advanced grammar, influences of nationalism, pan-Arabism, and Islam on identity formation.
- 5 Topic 5: Arab Cultural Awareness and Global Issues – morphology, environmental politics, global warming, and the refugee crisis.
- 6 Topic 6: Animal Symbolism in Arabic Literature – literary devices, analysis of *Kalila wa Dimna* and Ibn al-Muqaffa's stories, and symbolic resistance through literature.
- 7 Topic 7: Final Review – synthesis of all topics and oral presentation practice for long-term proficiency..

Modern Language Center (MLC)

Email: mlc@mlc.edu.jo

Tel/WhatsApp: +962777890587

Jabal Al-Luweibdeh, Amman – Jordan