

Modern Language Center (MLC)

AM/LANG 450 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 Novice mid to novice high level or equivalent.

Description

This course is designed for students who are already familiar with Arabic letters, sounds, and basic grammar structures such as nominal sentences, negation, and gender or plural agreement. It emphasizes communication through building sentences and paragraphs, focusing on real-life vocabulary and expressions relevant to life in Amman. Cultural and social aspects are also introduced to help students understand Jordanian society and its diversity.

MLC's Arabic program promotes communicative proficiency, encouraging students to use Modern Standard Arabic appropriately across various contexts. At the novice level, limited integration with the Jordanian dialect is introduced to reflect the diglossic nature of Arabic..

Objectives

- Recognize and correctly pronounce Arabic letters and basic sentence structures.
- Understand elementary grammatical structures.
- Use limited vocabulary accurately in simple contexts with correct agreement and tenses.
- Compose short sentences and paragraphs about daily life and personal needs.
- Use present and future tenses correctly and develop basic understanding of past and imperative forms.
- Read and comprehend simple Arabic texts with familiar vocabulary.
- Infer meaning of new words through context.
- Engage in conversations about predictable, everyday situations.
- Progress from ACTFL Novice High to Intermediate Low or Intermediate Mid level.

Course Requirements

The course is intensive, requiring active participation and preparation for each class. Activities include listening exercises, vocabulary memorization, reading and writing practice, and daily reviews. Attendance and engagement in Jordan's cultural environment are essential for success.

Assignments include a mid-term project, where students lead a 20-minute session on one skill (reading, writing, listening, or speaking). Final exams assess comprehension and oral communication through a written test and oral interview. A final paper (minimum five pages) describes the student's experience in Jordan and reflects on learning outcomes..

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 2–3 (forthcoming publication).

Additional Resources

The course uses short video clips and authentic materials from Arabic media such as Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera to reinforce class topics.

Outline of Course Content

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

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in a Different Culture – nominal and verbal sentences, demonstratives, directions, describing home and neighborhood, gender roles.
- 2 Topic 2: My New Surroundings – colors, weather, food, markets, hobbies, and lifestyle influences.
- 3 Topic 3: Describing People – past tense, comparatives, superlatives, family, identity, and personality traits.
- 4 Topic 4: Arabic Media – introduction to roots, verb forms, news terminology, biographies, horoscopes, and media analysis.
- 5 Topic 5: Jordan's Cultural and Historical Landmarks – conditional clauses, describing famous sites (Jerash, Petra, Wadi Rum, Dead Sea), and cultural recognition.
- 6 Topic 6: Holidays, Culture, and Customs – future tense, adjective agreement, Ramadan, Nowruz, and cultural exchange.
- 7 Topic 7: Final Review – comprehensive review of all subjects for long-term retention.

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