

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Code / Course Title: (AM/LANG 162) Novice Jordanian Dialect

Total Hours: 40

Recommended Credits: 2

Primary Discipline: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Pre-Requisites/Requirements: ACTFL novice-mid to novice-high level or equivalent. Final placement at discretion of Academic Director.

Description

This course is offered to students who are comfortable with the Arabic script and sounds, elementary grammar (including sentence structure, gender and plural agreement, tenses and negation) and basic vocabulary. Jordanian dialect course hours are front-loaded to build a foundation of communicative competency upon students' arrival in Amman. After the first week, course hours taper to an average of 5 hours per week.

Driven by the concept of communicative proficiency and the goal of functional competency, CET Jordan treats Arabic language as one system of communication, guiding students to employ the appropriate register to perform a variety of real-life communicative functions. CET's Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Jordanian dialect courses focus on their respective registers, however; overlap is encouraged in a way that mirrors the diglossic nature of the Arabic-speaking world.

The course employs a student-centered approach and focuses on communicative competence through the completion of concrete tasks, both in and outside the classroom, including interaction with native Arabic speakers. In order to prepare students for daily interactions with local people and engagement with contemporary Arab culture, class sessions incorporate elements of written and aural media produced for native speakers. Special attention is given to cultural and social themes which demonstrate the diversity of local perspectives and highlight the power dynamics that help shape them.

Students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies, (linguistic and cultural) working to communicate effectively on an increasing range of subjects and integrate Jordanian dialect into their preexisting knowledge of MSA. Students are expected to have basic daily conversations in the internship workplace or as they interact with local people in pursuit of their research project. Students in the internship/research tracks have the same required tasks as the students in the equivalent intensive language track, but in fewer course hours.

Objectives

Upon successful completion, students can:

- Distinguish between MSA and Jordanian dialect, recognizing basic phonological, lexical and syntactic differences
- Understand simplified grammatical rules of Jordanian dialect

CET Syllabus of Record

- Pronounce Jordanian dialect letters and words correctly and utilize high frequency phrases and words with ease
- Functionally use Jordanian dialect to communicate in daily life situations (airport, home, *souq*, taxi, doctor, restaurant) and discuss elementary topics
- Correctly construct simple paragraphs
- Basic understanding and use of the three tenses (past, present, future)
- Utilize vocabulary in simple contexts with proper subject-verb agreement, adjective agreement and tenses

Course Requirements

The pace of instruction is intensive. Students are expected to thoroughly prepare for each class and to actively participate. In-class activities and homework may include listening to audio materials, memorizing new patterns and vocabulary, completing written assignments, reviewing material learned the previous day, and activating new vocabulary. Class attendance, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy, is critical for success in the course, as is learning how to engage and navigate Jordan's cultural environment.

All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class and late assignments are not accepted. Quizzes and pop quizzes are administered throughout the term. Each month, students prepare a project connecting to the subjects and learning objectives covered that month. During the final week, students undergo an oral interview exam covering the depth and breadth of material covered throughout the summer. Individual interviews last approximately 15 minutes. Each student is required to create and record an original skit, individually or in a group, to be submitted to the instructor during the final week of classes. Vocabulary used in the skit is prepared and distributed to the class prior to performance.

In addition to time in class, students spend 16 hours throughout the term conversing informally in Arabic with colleagues at their internship sites. Students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour studying for every hour spent in the classroom. Field-based excursions, for which attendance is required, may include a cooking activity, café activity, and farm activity.

Grading

Students are evaluated on the four skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through quizzes, skits, written and oral exams and class participation.

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation: 20%
- Homework: 20%
- Exams and Quizzes: 30%
- Monthly Projects: 10%
- Final Oral Interview: 10%
- Final Skit: 10%

Readings

يوسف، منال. لغتي العربية المستوى 1

CET Syllabus of Record

Yosef, Manal. *My Arabic Language, Level 1*. Publication forthcoming.

Outline of Topics Covered

Approximately one topic is covered per week.

Topic 1- Culture of Daily Life in Jordan

- Fruits and vegetables
- Clothing
- How to purchase items
- Travel concerns, including taxis, directions, and familiarization with addresses
- Describing apartment

Topic 2- Polite Expressions, Niceties, and the Etiquette of Written Communication

- Using kind phrases when speaking with others
- Writing emails or messages
- Creating sentences with vocabulary and simple connecting words

Topic 3- Culture of Religion and Art

- Cultural and religious occasions and related colloquialisms
- Arabic songs
- Art as hobby and identity
- Art and principles of *halal* and *haram*

Topic 4- Culture of Local Communication

- Learning to create various messages such as congratulations, condolences, requests, thanks, holiday cards, addressed to neighbors and language partners
- Cultural differences between expressions and sayings in different contexts
- Understanding social expectations and norms at the heart of greetings and common colloquialisms

Topic 5- Simple Description from a Cultural Lens

- Basic physical descriptions
- Verbal and nominal sentences with connecting words.
- Describing the weather, clothing, and basic physical and personality characteristics
- Power, class, color, and tribe: the attributes of the ideal Jordanian bride
- Cultural differences between the use of physical characteristics between Jordan and America

Topic 6- Mid-Length Narration in the Past and Present

- Describing family, work, hobbies, and travel
- Class, privilege, culture and religion as influences on lifestyle

Topic 7- Real Life Application of Cultural Expressions

- Using phrases in scenarios, and listening to songs and videos that use these phrases

CET Syllabus of Record

Topic 8- Putting Learned Skills into Practice

- Listening to videos and recordings that relate to what students have learned

Topic 9- Simple Description and Building Conversation

- Excursion locations and simple questions