

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 350) Advanced Modern Standard Arabic

Total Hours: 105

Recommended Credits: 6

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listing: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites / Requirements: ACTFL Advanced-Mid or Advanced-High level equivalent. Final placement at discretion of Academic Director

Description

This course is offered to students who:

- Demonstrate approximately advanced reading comprehension skills and a refined knowledge of sentence structure and the Arabic verb system.
- Compose essays using the whole tenses (past, present, and future) and syntactic structures
- Comprehend a variety of authentic Arabic materials within a normal range of speed
- Understand the general ideas of news broadcasts intended for native speakers
- Are understood by native speakers who do not have any experience with foreign students
- Speak with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations about practical, social and professional topics

The course guides students to employ appropriate discourse by using advanced vocabulary and native cultural references to have debates and discussions with native speakers. The course covers complex grammatical structures which are applied in a final research paper of significant length and complexity. Through a series of topics, the course expands vocabulary, increasing accuracy and control in speaking and recalling words. Course themes support students in their communication with native speakers at the level of advanced conversation on an expanded range of topics. 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.

Driven by the concept of communicative proficiency and the goal of functional competency, CET Jordan programs treat 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. In advanced level courses, there is an overlap between MSA and Jordanian dialect which gives the students the ability to use the diglossic nature of the Arabic-speaking world in real conversations and to demonstrate their agreement/disagreement and their critical opinion.

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 introduce new vocabulary and increasingly complex grammatical structures, the course supplements materials designed for language instruction with listening and reading samples intended for native speakers. Students practice interactive functional skills such as listening comprehension and conversation strategies to communicate effectively on an increasing range of subjects.

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Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students can:

- Understand various aspects of Arab societies including literature, media, and culture through advanced reading of authentic Arabic materials including poetry, short stories and novels.
- Organize discourse appropriately using advanced vocabulary and native cultural references to engage in a broad range of debates and discussions with native speakers.
- Write research papers that are clearly organized of significant length and complexity.
- Follow major news broadcasts and understand the detailed ideas.
- Speak with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations about practical, social and professional topics.
- Read novels of medium length
- Progress from the ACTFL towards advanced high or superior low levels.

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, reading and writing short paragraphs and texts, 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. The course may also include field-based components like special lectures, site visits, or structured dialogues.

All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class and late assignments are not accepted. For the mid-term project, students assume the role of the teacher for a 20-minute presentation on one of the four skills: reading, writing, listening, or speaking. The final written exam is comprehensive and includes all vocabulary and grammatical structures covered during the semester. The final oral interview exam covers the depth and breadth of course material. Individual interviews last approximately 15 minutes. The final assignment is a written paper of no less than twelve pages which includes a description of one of the topics mentioned below. Students are required to present a 10-minute in-class presentation on the subject of their final assignment using 90% of the vocabulary learned in class.

Grading

Students are evaluated in the four language areas (speaking, listening, reading and writing) through quizzes, written and oral exams and class participation.

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation: 20%
- Homework: 15%
- Presentations: 5%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Mid-Term Project: 10%
- Mid-Term Exam 5%

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- Final Exam: 5%
- Final Oral Interview Exam: 10%
- Final Assignment 20%

Readings

يوسف، منال. لغتي العربية المستوى ٦-٧

Yosef, Manal. *My Arabic Language, Levels 6-7*. Publication forthcoming

كنفاني، غسان. أرض البرتقال الحزين. مؤسسة الأبحاث العربية. الطبعة الرابعة. 1987

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

المقري، علي اليهود الحالي. الطبعة الخامسة. بيروت: دار الساقي. 2009.

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

Additional Resources

The class incorporates the use of short video clips (maximum 2-5 minute) from popular news channels such as Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera that reflect the issues being discussed in the class.

Outline of Course Content

During the semester, approximately two weeks are dedicated to each topic. In the summer term, topics are covered in one week at an accelerated pace.

Topic 1: Daily Life in a New Culture

- An overview of intermediate high level
- Reviewing the syntactic grammatical structure

Topic 2: Social issues influenced by social media

- Verb forms (1-10)
- Complicated passive voice
- Civil society and religious interpretation
- Extra-marital cohabitation
- Inter-faith marriage

Topic 3: Minorities in Arab Societies

- أسلوب الشرط الجازم وغير الجازم بشكل معقد
- الأمر بكل أشكاله
- Religion, citizenship status & power
- Religious minorities, LGBTQ+ communities: expression & rights
- Sectarianism
- Arabic proverbs

Topic 4: Jordanian Male Youth Culture

- Review (التميز المفاعيل، الحال،)

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- معقد بشكل واللازم المتعدي الفعل
- Youth and alienation
- Chauvinistic stereotypes and maturity
- Markers of masculinity: alcohol & argile
- Young men and street harassment

Topic 5: Regional political conflicts

- Exclamation method
- Verb form review
- Regional water distribution as colonial vestige
- Jordan's water scarcity, national security, and water conflict
- Refugees

Topic 6: Moral authority & Jordanian law

- كان وأخواتها
- الأحراف المشبهة بالفعل
- Navigating the diglossia
- Prayer and supplication
- Freedom of information
- Ideology, poverty, and ignorance
- Criminalized behavior and consequences

Topic 7: Final review

- Review of all past subjects and activities for long-term retention