

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Code / Title: (AM/LANG 200) Novice High Modern Standard Arabic

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. Final placement at discretion of Academic Director

Description

This course is offered to students who are comfortable with the Arabic script and sounds and have familiarity with elementary grammar (including nominal sentence structure, negation, and gender/plural agreement).

Employing the foundations of grammar as a means to communicative proficiency, this course focuses on sentence structure and paragraph-building with careful attention to the function of nouns and *'iraab*. The course rotates through high-frequency vocabulary and expressions, enabling students to ask and answer questions, describe themselves and their surroundings, and strengthen listening skills. Course themes aim to support students in their day-to-day life in Amman and open the door to Jordanian society. 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 novice-level courses, a limited degree of integration is encouraged to prepare students for 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 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.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students can:

- Demonstrate command of the sound of Arabic letters and basic Arabic sentence structure, with pronunciation understandable to natives who are accustomed to interacting with foreigners
- Understand elementary grammatical structures
- Utilize limited vocabulary in simple contexts with proper subject-verb agreement, adjective agreement and tenses
- Compose sentences and short paragraphs related to survival needs and daily life

CET Syllabus of Record

- Use the present and future tenses comfortably and without error
- Have a foundation for using past and imperative tenses with high frequency verbs
- Read and comprehend basic Arabic texts with familiar vocabulary and simple discourse
- Guess with relative success at highly contextualized unfamiliar vocabulary
- Understand and participate in conversations about predictable daily life situations and topics of limited complexity
- Progress from the ACTFL Novice level to the Intermediate-Low or Intermediate-Mid level.

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 in 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 five pages which includes a description of themselves, their studies and experience in Jordan, and reflection on what they have learned. For example, students can write about their favorite foods and places in Jordan and the seasons and dress in Jordan. Students are required to present a five-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%
- Final Exam: 5%
- Final Oral Interview Exam: 10%
- Final Assignment 20%

CET Syllabus of Record

Readings

يوسف، منال. لغتي العربية المستوى ٢ - ٣.

Yosef, Manal. *My Arabic Language, Levels 2-3*. Publication forthcoming.

Additional Resources

The class incorporates the use of short video clips (maximum 1 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 different culture

- Nominal and verbal sentences
- Relative pronouns الذي، التي، الذين
- الإضافة
- Demonstratives
- Present tense verbs; nominative, accusative, and genitive cases and إعراب
- Subject-verb agreement in verbal sentences
- Daily life, describing my home and neighborhood
- Directions and numbers
- Introducing myself
- Work and home, gender roles

Topic 2: My new surroundings

- Colors
- Description of vegetables, fruit, clothes, and weather
- The marketplace
- Hobbies and travel
- Occasions
- Culture, religion and implications on lifestyle

Topic 3: Describing people

- Quantifiers كل، بعض، معظم، عدّة
- Past tense verbs and negation
- ك، مثل، كما، كأن
- Superlatives
- Comparative verbs
- My identity
- My family
- Describing personalities and physical appearance, stereotypes, beauty & power, the ideal partner

Topic 4: Arabic media: News & Horoscopes

CET Syllabus of Record

- Introduction to the Arabic root system and use of a root-based dictionary
- أنّ و أنّ و إنّ
- ما زال وأصبح وكان
- Biography of prominent figures in Arab society (focusing on past tense verbs)
- News media terminology, social communication via newspapers
- Horoscopes & fortune telling – popular media challenging religious teachings

Topic 5: Jordan's cultural and historical landmarks

- Conditional clauses إذا، لو
- ما و من
- Verbal nouns
- Describing places: Jerash, Ajloun, Umm Qais, Petra, Wadi Rum, the Dead Sea
- Culture, religion, and colonialism: what makes a landmark?
- Local versus international recognition

Topic 6: Holidays, culture, and customs

- Future tense verbs and negation
- Adjectives and noun/adjective agreement
- Musical heritage
- Nowrouz and Ramadan
- Politics of visibility and recognition in the practice of religious holidays in Jordan/the Arab World
- Power and language: exchanging religious greetings

Topic 7: Final review

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