

## **Beginning Modern Standard Arabic** ARAB-1003 (3 credits)

### **Jordan: Arabic Language and the Middle East**

*This syllabus represents a tentative The Experiment summer internship program. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from program to program.*

#### **Course Description**

This four-week course includes an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic: both colloquial spoken language and the written script. To become familiar with Arabic, students will learn grammatical rules, vocabulary, structure, and methods of forming sentences. These linguistic rules will be tied to local cultural norms to give students a broader understanding of everyday life in Jordan and Jordanian society as a whole. Thus, not only does the course aim to have students use Arabic to express themselves in daily life, but also to develop students' understanding of Arabic culture through different applications of the language.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Write the Arabic alphabet, numbers, and days of the week;
- Get directions to, and negotiate prices for, transport to local destinations;
- Shop and pay for items and order a meal at a restaurant;
- Understand and respond to demographic questions, such as those about nationality/marital status/occupation;
- Formally introduce others and use appropriate leave-taking expressions.

#### **Course Requirements**

Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers and to generate questions for class discussions.

#### *Required Readings:*

Omar Othman, *Let's Read and Write Arabic*.

K. Brustad, M. Al-Batal, and A. Al-Tonsi. (2011). *Al kitab fee ta allum al Arabiyya, Part One*, Units 1-5, (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

#### **Course Schedule**

\*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

This Arabic language course is designed to give equal weight to developing four skills: reading, writing, listening, and conversation. All of the skills will be covered in the Standard Arabic class, and dialect will be taught through the listening and the conversation class.

### **Weeks 1**

This week, students will:

- Be introduced to different varieties of the Arabic language, including classical, standard, and colloquial Arabic;
- Learn basic daily dialogue to communicate.

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Greet and be greeted;
- Start recognizing the letters of the Arabic alphabet in different positions within words;
- Communicate on a day-to-day level (students will have approximately 25 pages of essential
- vocabulary with words related to daily expressions, prepositions, numbers, and verbs).

### **Weeks 2**

This week, students will:

- Cover Alkitaab 1, Unit 1;
- Learn how to form nominal sentences, gender in nouns and adjectives, and Alnisba;
- Learn to write using the Arabic alphabet;
- Practice reading and writing;
- Learn lists of vocabulary and expressions related to health and daily life.

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Give directions to taxi drivers in Arabic;
- Introduce themselves and others in Arabic;
- students they will have their midterm exam

### **Weeks 3**

This week, students will:

- Cover Alkitaab 1, Unit 2;
- Learn how to form short sentences and questions.

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Understand plural forms and subject pronouns;
- Use some main verb conjugations, like to want and to have;
- Relate verbs to cultural contexts;
- Talk about their families and friends

### **Week 4**

This week, students will:

- Cover Alkitaab 1, Unit 3;
- Learn alidaafa and possessive pronoun rules;

- Take the midterm exam.

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Form polite requests and conjugate some essential verbs;
- Speak in more depth about food, drinks, body parts.
- Express likes and dislikes;

\*At the end of the course, students will present their Final Arabic projects and have Arabic Final Exam.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

### Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

#### 1) Assignments (30%)

Daily in-class short quizzes to assess and evaluate learning. Quizzes contain both written and spoken components.

#### 2) Final Project (25%)

The students select a topic related to the program's themes and discuss and present it in Arabic, which could take the form of a presentation, a video, or filming.

Students can work on a project individually or in groups.

#### 3) Exams (35%)

##### Midterm Exam (15%)

At the midway point of the course students will have a one-and-a-half-hour midterm exam.

##### Final Exam (25%)

At the end of the final week, students will complete a 2-hour final exam.

#### 4) Participation (10%)

This includes active involvement in lectures, readings, discussions and excursions using the following criteria:

- Attendance - promptness to class and positive presence in class.
- Active Listening - paying attention in class and during field excursions, asking appropriate questions, showing interest and enthusiasm (this includes body language), entertaining contradictory perspectives, taking notes.
- Involvement in Discussions - either in small or large groups, sharing knowledge. This means challenging yourself to speak up if you usually don't, and also means allowing others to speak if you are a person who tends to dominate class discussions.
- Group Accountability – positive participation in the group during field excursions and classes; not keeping others waiting.
- Displaying Respect – culturally appropriate interaction with hosts, program staff, speakers and communities.

### Attendance and Participation

Due to the nature of The Experiment programs, and the importance of student and instructor contributions in each and every class session, attendance at all classes and for all program excursions is required. Criteria for evaluation of student performance include attendance and participation in program activities. Students must fully participate in all program components and courses. Students may not voluntarily opt out of required program activities. Valid reasons for absence – such as illness – must be discussed with the program director or other designated staff person.

### Late Assignments

The Experiment programs integrate traditional classroom lectures and discussion with field-based experiences, site visits and debriefs. It is critical that students complete assignments in a timely manner to continue to benefit from the sequences in assignments, reflections and experiences throughout the program.

### Grading Scale

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

### **Program Expectations**

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.
- Storing Your Work: Keep several copies of your work as back up and keep one copy accessible to you through an online forum, such as an attachment in your email, the course learning management system, or cloud-based storage. This way your work will always be available to despite technical issues. Lost files, deleted drives, or computer crashes are not excuses for late, missing work.

- **Personal Technology Use:** Cell phones and other personal electronics can be used for taking notes and other class activities. Off-task usage is not acceptable. You may be marked as absent for habitually using them for something other than classroom activities.
- **Classroom recording policy:** To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

### **The Experiment Policies and Resources**

Please refer to The Experiment handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.