

Levantine Arabic I

Middle East Institute

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Course Goals

- elementary conversation skills in Levantine Arabic with an emphasis on common everyday situations
- development of intermediate level listening comprehension skills in Levantine Arabic dialect
- awareness of differences in pronunciation and usage among Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian speakers
- development of conscious awareness of when colloquial language is being used and when standard Arabic is used

Course Requirements

- 1) daily homework based on the assigned texts and multimedia materials;
- 2) weekly homework preparation following the syllabus
- 3) oral midterm
- 4) final oral evaluation

Prerequisite: for Levantine I is ARAB 101 or the equivalent, a minimum of 30 hours of MSA instruction including elementary facility in speaking and listening to MSA. This course assumes students can already carry on basic conversations in MSA.

Grading

20% Attendance, preparation, and participation in all conversation sessions. Regular attendance is required in order to pass the course.

10% On-time submission of weekly assignments due at the end of each week.

30% Midterm oral evaluation and written examination.

40% Final oral evaluation. The final oral evaluation must be passed in order to pass the course.

Course Materials

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, a functional course, by Mary-Jane Liddicoat, Richard Lennane, and Abdul Rahim. Available for purchase online at www.syrianarabic.com

Semester Assignments: Students are responsible for mastering all the assigned materials listed in the course plan. The weekly assignments listed below represent a standard pace for completing the

semester's work. Conversation sections will normally follow this standard pace. The materials for each week should be prepared prior to the conversation section meeting for that week.

Week:

Week 1

Assignment:

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 1 "Welcome to Damascus!" – Conversation and Functions A – C (do exercises and audio)

LangMedia: Levantine Situation Videos under Greetings
Formal Greetings
Good Morning
Good Evening
Female Friends Greeting

Conversation session preparation: Students should be prepared to practice role playing many different types of formal and informal greeting and getting acquainted conversations using what they have learned from text, audio, and video selections.

Week 2

Assignment:

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 1 "Welcome to Damascus!" - Continued

LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons – Numbers
Arabic in Jordan – Useful Expressions
Levantine Situation Videos under Greetings
Greeting and Asking about the University
Three People Introducing Themselves

Conversation session preparation: Students role play more complex greetings, introductions, and getting acquainted conversations, practice using numbers using counting and phone number exercises, practice asking and offering things.

Week 3:

Assignment:

Colloquial Arabic, Unit 2 "Turn the Meter on Please" – Functions A - C (do exercises and use audio mp3 files)

LangMedia: Arabic in Jordan - Telling Time, Calendar, Taking a Taxi, Getting Acquainted Phrases – review "Where do you live?", Asking for Directions; Restrooms

Conversation session preparation:

Students find a map of any city or town (in the U.S. or abroad) and practice giving directions between various places on the map. Students role play

taking a taxi to various destinations. Students role play asking for directions and giving directions to many different locations.

Week 4

Assignment :

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 3 “A Room with a Bath” – Conversation and Functions A – C

LangMedia: Arabic in Jordan – Lodging
Videos under “Places” and “Everyday Life”
“Jericho and the Dead Sea; see all videos”
“Damascus, Syria; see all videos”
“Transportation; see all videos”

Conversation session preparation: Students choose any major city in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, or Syria and find information on two hotels. Students practice describing the hotels in Levantine. Where is the hotel? What are its rates for various types of rooms? What facilities and amenities does it have? Is it cheap or expensive?

Students make a list of vocabulary of useful words related to finding lodging and compare the Levantine expressions with their knowledge of MSA vocabulary.
Students describe chosen hotel to the class and are prepared to answer questions. Students role play acting as the hotel clerk while other students inquire for lodging.

Week 5

Assignment:

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 3 “A Room with a Bath” – continued

LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons – Shopping Phrases, Banks and Money, Local Buses, Traveling by Bus, – Business Transactions, – Travel and Places of Interest

Conversation session preparation: Students make a list of vocabulary needed to negotiate riding a taxi, taking a bus, going to the bank and post office. Students role play situations in which they have to ask for help in getting the correct bus and buying a bus ticket. Also role play making car/hotel reservations, discuss reasonable cost for accommodations /destinations and learn useful phrases to make sure to get a good price and to discuss safety issues.

Week 6

Assignment:

Colloquial Arabic, Unit 4 “We’re very hungry!” – Conversation and Function A

LangMedia: Arabic in Jordan – Food Shopping

Levantine Situation Videos - Videos under “On Food and Cooking”

Conversation session preparation: Students prepare to give Levantine names for various foods in both the plural and the singular and role play shopping for food.

Students discuss favorite foods and ingredients in these foods. Students practice telling classmates about their shopping list.

Week 7

- **Assignment:**

Colloquial Arabic, Unit 4 “We’re very hungry!” – continued

LangMedia: Arabic in Jordan – Eating Out Levantine Situation Videos - Videos under “On Food and Cooking”

Tea with Friends

Ordering Drinks

“Food: Food Shopping and Eating Out”

Discussing Restaurants (Lebanon)

Tripoli Restaurant (Lebanon)

Conversation session preparation: Students learn and practice expressions needed to read menus and order food in restaurants. Students write out a sample restaurant menu and role play ordering from their menu and other students’ menus. Students role play restaurant scenarios using the menus created by classmates and discuss table and restaurant etiquette. What is good table etiquette? Where are the hands? What do you say if you are full? What if you want more? In restaurants, how do you politely interact with the server? Does one order the meal all at once or piece by piece? What about tipping? What about street vendors and fast food places? How do they work? Where can a student get a good cheap meal?

- **Final Oral Examination**