# Levantine Arabic IV

# (Updated August 2016)

# Five College Spoken Arabic Courses

# Program Director: Amy Wordelman

Course Organizer: Theo Hull

# 413-542-5264 fcmlp2@hfa.umass.edu

**Assignment 1:** Popular Culture

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

* Listen to the videos. First listen multiple times without looking at the Arabic transcript or English translation.
* Then consult the transcript and translation as needed. Go back and listen.
* Finally, listen again. Stop and start in order to imitate the speaker using key phrases or expressions. Choose certain phrases and expression to learn that will enable you to discuss the video with others. You should be able to describe what the video is about and discuss similar topics.

“Arts and Entertainment”

-Music: Discussing Tastes in Music

“Recreation”

-Sports: Popular Sports

-Free Time: A Young Man’s pastimes

- Free time: Watching TV

“Everyday Life”

-Clothing in Jordan: Appropriate Colors for Clothing

Go online and find some of the most popular songs in popular culture from:

<http://www.arabicmusictranslation.com/search/label/Lebanese>

<http://www.arabicmusictranslation.com/search/label/Palestinian>

<http://www.arabicmusictranslation.com/search/label/Syrian>

(Some of the embedded Youtube videos might show up as unavailable. In this case, try searching for songs on Youtube itself.)

Pick an Arabic song that you like. Listen to the song. Then, look at the words and translation provide. Do they match you interpretation? Pick one or more songs to introduce to your classmates.

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to talk about different singers and songs in popular in Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon.
* Be prepared to discuss the popular sports and the sport culture in popular in Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon.
* Be prepared to talk about different aspects of popular culture in popular in Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon.
* Be prepared to ask the conversation partner about the music he listens to, the sport, and hobbies.

**Assignment 2:** Food and Cooking

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Food”

- Well known Dishes: Favorite Lebanese Foods

- Well known Dishes: Common Palestinian Food

- Well known Dishes: Shared Levantine Dishes

- Well known Dishes: Well known Dishes in Jordan

- Well known Dishes: Famous Foods in Aleppo

-Sweets and Baked Goods: Traditional Palestinian Sweets

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to talk about popular Arab dishes, what are they made of, when they are cooked, and how.
* Be prepared to make distinctions between the foods for which Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan and know for.
* Be prepared to make distinctions in the way each of the countries under discussion cook the same meal, for example Maklubak is made with white flower in Palestine and with Egg plant in Lebanon.

**Assignment 3:** Traditions, Norms, and Customs-1:

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Religious and Cultural Traditions”

- Engagements in Jordan: Steps Preceding an Engagement

- Engagements in Jordan: The Engagement Party

- Engagements in Jordan: Steps of an Engagement

- Weddings in Jordan: Financing a Wedding Party in Jordan

- Palestinian Weddings: Arranging for Marriage

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to talk about marriage procedures such as engagement and wedding.
* Be prepared to compare the cultural traditions of marriage in Jordan and Palestine with those found in the United States.
* Be prepared to speak about your perception of the marriage traditions you hear about in the videos above.

**Assignment 4:** Traditions, Norms and Customs -2

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Religious and Cultural Traditions”

* Palestinian Weddings: A Palestinian Wedding
* Weddings in Jordan: Wedding Arrangements
* Palestinian Rites of Passage: Responding to Death
* Religious Celebration: On the Day of Eid
* Religious Celebration: Explaining the Two Eids

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to talk about Palestinian weddings, their norms and customs.
* Be prepared to talk about the Eid, what it means to the people celebrating it, and how it is celebrated. Remember to make distinctions between the two Eids discuss in the video listed above.
* Be prepared to talk about the rituals of death in the Palestinian society, what people do, and why they do it.

**Assignment 5:** Education-1. School Systems and How One Gets into University

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Education”

- Syrian School System: Division of Grade Levels

- Schools in Jordan: Jordan’s System of Education

- Education in Jordan: The University System in Jordan

- University Life: A Sociology Student

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to discuss education and higher education in Jordan and Palestine.
* Be prepared to compare the education system in those two countries and the Untied States.
* Be prepared to speak about you experience with the education system in the Arab country you have been to. Speak about the teachers, the classes, and the students. Also describe the place, its roads, building, and its inhabitants.

**Assignment 6:** Education-2, Higher Education and University Life

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Education”

- Palestinian Higher Education: Pursuing Higher Education

- Higher Education in Jordan: Conducting University Exams

- University Life: Remembering the Transition to University

- University Life: Memories of Paris

- Palestinian Higher Education: Pharmaceutical Studies

**Conversation Session preparation:**

* Be prepared to discuss education and higher education in Jordan and Palestine.
* Be prepared to compare the education system in those two countries and the Untied States.
* Be prepared to speak about you experience with the education system in the Arab country you have been to. Speak about the teachers, the classes, and the students. Also describe the place, its roads, building, and its inhabitants.

**Assignment 7:** Work

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Work”

-Employment Issues: Palestinian Work Opportunities

-Employment Issues: Syrian Brain Drain

- In Service of Others: Red Crescent Emergency Dispatcher

- Palestinian Women’s Work: Working Women in Palestine

- Palestinian Health Services: Emergency Medical Services

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to discuss the work issues raised in the videos above.
* Be prepared to compare work culture, and work conditions, in the countries under consideration and the United States.

**Assignment 8:** Places and Histories

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Places”

-Palestinian Cities and Towns: Jericho City

-Damascus, Syria: Damascus and its History

-Introduction to Jordan: Describing Jordan

- Visiting Anjar in Lebanon: Historic Anjar, Part One

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to talk about and describe the different cities that show in the videos above.
* Be prepared to talk about places you have visited in the Middle East or otherwise.
* Be prepared to make comparisons between places using as many adjectives as possible.

**Assignment 9:** Society and Politics

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Society, Health and Environment”

-Palestinian Health Services: Mental Health Services

- Red Crescent Development Work: Men’s Participation in Development

-Palestinian Red Crescent Society: History of the Palestinian Red Crescent

“Economy and Politics”

-Governments: Syrian Political Parties

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to discuss the perception of psychology in the countries under consideration. Compare the - difference in perception between those countries and the United States.
* Be prepared to discuss danger issues in the Arab world.
* Be prepared to discuss politics in the Arab world. Issues such as freedom of speech, democracy, woman’s rights, and pluralism are at the center of the discussion.

**Assignment 10**: Language and Literature

Study these videos from [CultureTalk Arab Levant](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/culturetalk/arab_levant/index.html)

“Language”

-Language Diversity: Languages and Dialects in Palestine

-Language Diversity: French Influence on Lebanese Dialect

“Economy & Politics”

-Political Literature: Arab Political Novelist, Part 1

-Political Literature: Arab Political Novelist, Part 1

**Conversation session preparation:**

* Be prepared to discuss contemporary issues with the Arabic language. A prominent issue that has been the subject of much debate and discussion is the use of colloquial Arabic in writing. Another issue is the freedom of press and publishing. Government surveillance on the intellectual activity and the consequences of such surveillance are very critical issues that relate to the subject.
* Be prepared to discuss major Arab writers in the countries under discussion, their major works, and the impact these works had on the Arabic reader.