**­­­­Levantine Arabic Study Guide for Assignment 1**

Five College Center for the Study of World Languages – Spoken Arabic Courses

Study guide version: August 2016

**Materials for this Study Guide**

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit I “Welcome to Damascus!” – Conversation and Function A (do exercises and audio)

LangMedia: [Levantine Audio Comparisons](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/legacy/arabic/levantine/index.html) – Getting Acquainted Phrases and Greetings Phrases (compare regional variations in Levantine Arabic)

**Getting Started**

Unit I – “Welcome to Damascus” Conversation and Function A

1. Work through all the textbook materials related to the Conversation and Function A. Listen to the audio. Practice repeating after the speakers. Put down your book and try to use the phrases and repeat the dialog without looking at your textbook. Do the exercises on your own. Check yourself using the answer key. Do the exercises orally as much as possible.
2. Listen to and practice the greetings and phrases on LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons: Greetings and Getting Acquainted Phrases. You can choose which of the dialect versions you want to use in your own speech: Jordanian, Lebanese, Syrian, or Palestinian. There are many variations even within regions, so learn to expect variations and to comprehend many different variations.
3. Be prepared to role play situations: arriving at passport control, greeting someone, and sharing information about names, occupation, nationality, and marital status. Be prepared to do role plays in which you play yourself and others where you take on a pretend identity.

**Practice Specific Skills**

**The dialogue on p.23.**

* Read it aloud to yourself several times and over multiple days. Put down your book and practice playing both parts of the dialog without looking at your book. Be sure to study where you can talk to yourself.
* Improvise variations on the dialog. Substitute your name and personal information for Emily’s. Repeat the dialog substituting other “characters” that you make up for Emily. Be comfortable adjusting the questions for the appropriate gender.

**Function A practice.**

* When you are practicing where you can talk to yourself, and when you are walking across campus, standing in the food line, in your room etc, practice combining this week’s new vocabulary. Talk to yourself**:**

Hello my name is \_\_\_\_. What is your name?

What is his/her name?

Her/His name is \_\_\_\_.

I am from \_\_\_\_\_.

S/He is from \_\_\_\_.

Where are you from?

Are you from \_\_\_\_\_?

No, I am from \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, I am from \_\_\_\_\_.

S/He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (nationality).

No, I am\_\_\_\_\_\_ (nationality).

**Using the vocabulary on page 32:** Practice improvising variations on the Conversation using the vocabulary for occupations on p. 32.

**Using the vocabulary on pages 32-37:** When you are practicing on your own, walking across campus, standing in the food line, in your room etc, practice combining this week’s new vocabulary. Talk to yourself**:**

Are you an engineer?

No, I am an ambassador.

What does you/s/he do?

Are you married?

Yes, I am married. Are you married?

No, I am engaged.

**Prepare for Conversation Session**

* Be prepared to role play arriving at passport control or similar official situation where you need to give your name and basic biographical data.
* Be prepared to role play introducing yourself to other people in your dorm. There will be many people living on your floor. Imagine introducing yourself in Levantine Arabic to each of them and how they might introduce themselves to you in Levantine Arabic. How would you ask and answer questions about where you and others from? How would you make appropriate small talk about where everyone is from?
* Be prepared to role play improvise dialogues about attending a party. Introduce yourself to the host/hostess as well as guests. Let others introduce themselves to you. Ask and answer questions related to marital status, country of origin and occupation. If you have a friend or family member with you, be sure to introduce them as well.
* Be prepared to describe people based on their name, occupation, nationality and marital status. “She or he is …”