

FORLANGC 197LT Levantine Arabic VII (half course)  
Five College Center for the Study of World Languages

[Go to course description](#)

Date span	Assignment	Self-assessment
Aug 24 to Aug 28	No sessions meet. Begin preparing Assignment 1 for next week.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Aug 31 to Sep 4	Complete Assignment 1.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Sep 7 to Sep 11	Complete Assignment 2.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Sep 14 to Sep 18	Complete Assignment 3.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Sep 21 to Sep 25	Complete Assignment 4.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Sep 28 to Oct 2	Complete Assignment 5.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Oct 5 to Oct 9	Review all material covered so far this semester. Conversation sessions meet for review.	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Oct 12 to Oct 16	Complete Assignment 6.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Oct 19 to Oct 23	Complete Assignment 7.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Oct 26 to Oct 30	Complete Assignment 8.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Nov 2 to Nov 6	Complete Assignment 9.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Nov 9 to Nov 13	Complete Assignment 10.  <a href="#">Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments</a>	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Nov 16 to Nov 20	Review all assignments from this semester. Sessions meet. No homework due, self-assessments ARE due.	<a href="#">Self-assessment due end of week</a>
Nov 23 to Nov 27	<b>Thanksgiving Week</b> - no sessions, no self-assessments.	

Date span	Assignment	Self-assessment
Nov 30 to Dec 4	<p><b>Final Oral Evaluations</b>            Individual oral evaluations will be scheduled in this time period.            Do not make travel plans until you know the date and time of your individual oral evaluation.  <b><i>Graduating seniors need to see that home campus senior grade deadlines are met.</i></b></p>	

# FORLANGC 197LT Levantine Arabic VII (half course)

## Course Description and Requirements

[Back to assignments](#)

**Director:** Janna White

**Contact Information:** [fcmlp2@umass.edu](mailto:fcmlp2@umass.edu) or 413-542-5264

The same format is used for Levantine Arabic V, VI, VII, and VIII. Students who are ready to handle upper-intermediate to advanced conversation in Levantine Arabic will normally start with enrollment in V and then move up a level in each subsequent semester. Conversation groups and topics are selected based on the interests and language skills of enrolled students. Students enrolled in different levels may still be in the same topic group for conversation practice.

Students will choose the discussion content for the following week and email the discussion topic and appropriate links to both the conversation partner and the course organizer at ([fcmlp2@hfa.umass.edu](mailto:fcmlp2@hfa.umass.edu)) within 24 hours of the previous week's meeting. See detailed instructions on the syllabus.

### Course Goals

1. Upper-intermediate to advanced conversation skills in Levantine Arabic with an emphasis on developing advanced skills such discussing current events and popular culture, as well as expressing and supporting opinions;
2. Advanced listening comprehension skills in Levantine Arabic dialect;
3. Awareness of differences in pronunciation and usage among Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian speakers.

### Course Requirements

1. Thorough preparation and active participation in choosing topics and guiding discussion;
2. Four to five hours per week of independent study and review following the chosen topics;
3. Twelve weekly 1 hour conversation sessions led by a native-speaking conversation partner;
4. Weekly self- assessments due at the end of each week (no later than 9:00 am the following Monday morning);
5. Final oral evaluation given by a professor who is a specialist in the language being studied.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Levantine Arabic VI or the equivalent.

## Course Materials

Course materials are chosen by the students in consultation with the conversation partner and the program directors. Most selections are videos from YouTube and other online sources. Students are expected to take an active role in choosing materials and preparing for discussion.

## Course Preparation

- The materials for each week should be prepared prior to the conversation section meeting for that week.
- Students need to study in locations where they can “talk to themselves” and practice using the language in as many different ways as possible. Students need to imagine situations in which they would need or want to use the language and then practice formulating possible phrases and sentences that would be needed in that context. Practice questions and responses to questions. Make up sentences and make up dialogs. Practice vocabulary by making up sentences and phrases similar to those used in everyday interactions.
- Assignments from the CultureTalk videos are given to enhance listening comprehension. Students should listen to these videos multiple times, first trying to discern what is being said without consulting the Arabic transcript or the translation, then studying the transcript and translation before listening again. Students should be prepared to discuss the videos during conversation sessions and should choose some vocabulary to learn from each video that will facilitate discussion of the video. Students are responsible for the material learned from the CultureTalk videos and will be asked about them during their oral evaluation

## Grading

10%: Attendance, preparation, and participation in all conversation sessions. Regular attendance is required in order to pass the course.

10%: On-time submission of weekly self-assessment reports due at the end of each week. We recommend students submit self-assessments immediately following the week’s conversation session. The self-assessments are due at the latest by 9:00 am on the following Monday.

80%: Final oral evaluation. The final oral evaluation must be passed in order to pass the course

Grading scale: A (94-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83); C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D+ (67-69); D (64-66); D- (60-63); F (59 or lower).

## Accommodations

The University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Five College Center for World Languages are committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS) at UMass or on your home campus, you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in your language course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify the program director as soon as possible and no later than the third week of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

## Academic Honesty Policy

Students must adhere to all University of Massachusetts Amherst and Five College policies regarding professional conduct and ethics, including policies covering non-discrimination, sexual harassment, and academic honesty. **University of Massachusetts Amherst Academy Honesty Policy:** Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct.

Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible.

Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent. More information about the Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures may be found online here: <http://www.umass.edu/honesty/>.

## Importance of Communication

Practice communication skills similar to what you would need in a professional work or internship situation: check e-mail twice per day; read e-mail carefully and respond in a timely manner; contact the office by e-mail or phone about questions or issues; take a proactive approach to solving any problems or issues that come up. Save [fcmlp2@umass.edu](mailto:fcmlp2@umass.edu) in your address book to help ensure that important messages about your course do not end up in your spam folder.

## Schedules and Schedule Changes

### Regular Meeting Times

Regular conversation session meeting times are set at the beginning of the semester. Students send schedule information to the conversation partner. The conversation partner chooses a time that will work for all members of the group. That time then becomes the regular meeting time for the semester and should remain consistent throughout the semester. (See your syllabus attachment for details about the process of scheduling conversation sessions.)

### Missed Sessions

Regular conversation session attendance and preparation constitutes 10% of your final grade. Students who miss a regular meeting time **do NOT get a make-up session**. Missing a conversation session is similar to missing a regular class session. It is the responsibility of the student to spend extra time on the material to catch up after missing a session. If you are ill, have a job or graduate school interview, or a religious holiday, you can be excused from the conversation session so that you are not penalized for missing a session. **Students who need excused absences should e-mail the Center staff AND their conversation partners as early as possible.**

### Permanent Changes to the Regular Meeting Time

Conversation groups may change to a different regular meeting time during the semester if the

conversation partner and all students in the group agree upon a new meeting time that works well for all involved. Requests to change to a new time must be communicated to the Center office by the conversation partner. The program staff will only approve the change after verifying with the conversation partner and each individual student that the change in time will work.

## **Extended Absences Due to Health or Personal Emergencies**

Students who experience serious health problems or other personal emergencies need to consult with the health services and/or appropriate deans on their home campus. If extended absences are necessary, the program director will work with the student and appropriate deans to determine the best course of action.

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