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FORLANGC 197LS Levantine Arabic VI (half course)

Five College Center for World Languages

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Date span	Assignment	Self-assessment
Jan 24 to Jan 28	No sessions meet. Begin preparing Assignment 1 for next week. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	
Jan 31 to Feb 4	Complete Assignment 1. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Feb 7 to Feb 11	Complete Assignment 2. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Feb 14 to Feb 18	Complete Assignment 3. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Feb 21 to Feb 25	Complete Assignment 4. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Feb 28 to Mar 4	Complete Assignment 5. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Mar 7 to Mar 11	Review all material covered so far this semester. Conversation sessions meet for review.	Self-assessment due end of week
Mar 14 to Mar 18	Spring Break - no sessions, no self-assessments.	
Mar 21 to Mar 25	Complete Assignment 6. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Mar 28 to Apr 1	Complete Assignment 7. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Apr 4 to Apr 8	Complete Assignment 8. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Apr 11 to Apr 15	Complete Assignment 9. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Apr 18 to Apr 22	Complete Assignment 10. Levantine Arabic V-VIII All Assignments	Self-assessment due end of week
Apr 25 to Apr 29	Review all assignments from this semester. Sessions meet. No homework due, self-assessments ARE due.	Self-assessment due end of week

Date span**Assignment****Self-assessment**

May 2 to May 6

End of the Semester**Final Oral Evaluations**

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.

Graduating seniors need to see that home campus senior grade deadlines are met.

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Course Description and Requirements

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Director: Janna White

Contact Information: 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) 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 as 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 V 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 UMass Disability Services (DS) or your home campus, you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify the program director within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements. For further information, please visit Disability Services

at <https://www.umass.edu/disability/> or your home campus office of disability services.

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: <https://www.umass.edu/honesty/>.

Importance of Communication

Practice communication skills similar to what you would need in a professional work or internship situation: check email twice per day; read email carefully and respond in a timely manner; contact the office by email or phone about questions or issues; take a proactive approach to solving any problems or issues that come up. Save 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 will 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 email 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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Five College Center for World Languages

79 South Pleasant St, Suite 100

Amherst College, AC Box 2264

Amherst, MA 01002

USA

[FCCWL website](#)

p: 413-542-5264

e: fclang@fivecolleges.edu



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[Staff login](#)
