

YARMOUK UNIVERSITY

LANGUAGE CENTER

**Arabic as a Foreign Language Program
(AFL)**

2013

Yarmouk University

Yarmouk University is a comprehensive university with an enrollment of about 36,000 students. Summer session at Yarmouk University is almost like fall and spring semester. About 80% of the regular students return to campus during the summer months and enroll in classes. They enliven the campus and the city. Every day, students are seen going to classes, studying in libraries, frequenting restaurants, cafes and University cafeterias, or chatting under an olive tree on campus. The University atmosphere provides an excellent opportunity for foreign students to converse with Arab students in Arabic, form friendships and polish their language skills.

Importance of the Arabic Language

The United Nations recognizes Arabic as one of the most wide-spread languages in the world. It is the mother tongue for more than 300 million Arabs living in 22 states, from Morocco and Mauritania in the West to Iraq and the Arabian Gulf in the East. Arabic is also the language of the Holy Quran, the liturgical language for more than one billion Muslims of various languages and origins in countries across the globe.

In light of this importance, and due to the growing international political and economic interest in the Middle East, the Language Center at Yarmouk University offers a variety of courses in Arabic for non-native speakers. Courses cater to all language levels, from beginners to advanced, at Yarmouk University Language Center in Irbid, Jordan.

Yarmouk University Language Center

The Language Center is an independent academic unit of Yarmouk University, an acclaimed academic institution and host to over 35,000 students. Established in 1979 to prepare and execute the English language requirement for Yarmouk University students, the Language Center expanded its mission in 1984 to offer programs in Arabic as a Foreign Language, as well. The Language Center has gained a universally-acknowledged reputation in this field, and has a long history of partnerships with private and public foreign institutions.

Study Abroad Programs at Yarmouk University Language Center

- University of Virginia-Yarmouk University Summer Arabic Program: An intensive summer Arabic program for American students of various language levels and institutional affiliations. Please visit: <http://www.virginia.edu/arabic/yarmouk.html>
- The Language Center offers courses to students from USA, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Malaysia, Brunei and other countries who join the AFL Program via the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Jordan), or privately.
- CET: An AFL program for the whole academic year designed to cater for the language needs of American students. Established in the fall of 2010/2011, the program is to continue for the future.
- University of Mississippi Program: An intensive summer AFL program for UM students of various levels intended to meet those students' language needs.
- Arabic for Diplomats: Diplomats from different embassies join this program on individual basis to study spoken Arabic with a focus on listening and conversation.

Academic Year

The all-round-the-year AFL Program accommodates students in its diverse programs and courses. The academic year falls into:

- first semester (Fall): 10 September – 10 January
- second semester (Spring): 10 February – 10 June
- summer session: 12 June – 12 August

Program Goals

- Teach/improve students' proficiency in the four skills of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA): reading, listening, speaking and writing.
- Qualify students to understand various forms of news media.
- Expose students to different genres of contemporary Arabic literature through an anthology of classical and contemporary religious texts that represent "the Arabic of Islam", and the language of a variety of Arabic news media.

- Reinforce a diverse vocabulary that covers major subjects and disciplines, with an emphasis on students' specialization or interests.
- Enable students to understand and express themselves in the local Jordanian dialect in addition to MSA.
- Place students in different Arabic and Islamic historical/cultural contexts in the course of language study.
- Give students opportunities to fully immerse in Arabic/Jordanian local life, e.g., attending festivals and weddings, visiting historical ruins and religious places, participating in social and cultural events, and socializing with Jordanian families.

Methodology

- Emphasis on the four major language skills: reading, listening, writing and speaking.
- Arabic as a medium of instruction. Students interact with their instructors, tutors, and colleagues in Arabic, and are provided with authentic texts and audio/visual materials that have not been modified or abridged for non-native audiences.
- Interactive presentation of Arabic within live, communicative contexts-with an emphasis on frequent student participation.
- A study of Arabic grammar in practical texts and natural contexts to exhibit the relevance and functionality of grammatical structures in the everyday language.
- Original supplementary textbooks and teaching materials, revised and updated every semester.
- Placing students in regular classes relevant to their areas of specialization or interest – for example, journalism, political science, history, Islamic studies (sharia), etc.

Teaching Staff

All instructors :

- Are Arabic native speakers
- Are experts in teaching Arabic for non-native speakers, with years of experience in acclaimed programs such as the University of Virginia – Yarmouk University Summer Arabic Program.
- Hold Ph.D. and Masters degrees and have authored or co-authored books or research papers in the field of teaching Arabic to non-native speakers.

- Have lived in or been exposed to the West and other Arab countries, nurturing a diversity of cultural experiences.

Levels of Instruction

Level (1) Beginning Arabic

This level is designed for beginning students with no prior experience in the language. Level One covers the writing system and phonetics and phonology (pronunciation, including intonation and stress) of Modern Standard Arabic, before introducing the fundamentals of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Language skills are built gradually with repetition, through a focus on the most common words and fundamental structures of MSA. The Beginning level enables students to read and write simple sentences and express themselves orally in simple dialogues.

Requirements: Beginning students without Arabic experience (0 – 19 Yarmouk University Language Center AFL placement test score)

Duration: 14 – 16 weeks (20 hours per week: 4 hrs/day. 5 days/week)

Teaching materials

- *Functional Arabic: Phoneme* (Omar Ukasha, Al al-Bayt University Series)
- *Functional Arabic: Structure, Level 1* (Dawoud Abdo, Al al-Bayt University Series)

Level (II) Lower Intermediate

The Lower Intermediate level is designed for students who have achieved proficiency in pronunciation and can read and write simple sentences in Modern Standard Arabic. Level two works to develop and expand proficiency in the four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking, in addition to introducing fundamental topics in Arabic grammar. All areas of the language are emphasized through the study of short authentic texts and audio-visual materials on a variety of subjects, including: basic Arab culture, social and historical topics, religious texts from the Quran and Hadith, and short stories. The Lower Intermediate level aims to enable students to comprehend short authentic written and audio texts, write brief compositions on basic topics, and engage in interactive discussions in areas of daily life.

Requirements: (20-39 Yarmouk University Language Center AFL placement test score)

Duration: 14-16 weeks (20 hours per week: 4 hrs/day, 5 days/week)

Teaching materials

- *Al-Salaam Alykoun: Level II – 2 parts* (Dr's. O. Ukasha and A. Abu-Dalow, Yarmouk University)
- Extracts from: *Functional Arabic: 2nd Book* (Dr's. Mahmoud Al-Halhouli and O. Ukasha, Al al-Bayt University Series)
- Extracts from: *Logical Connectors in Contemporary Arabic Language* (Dr. A.T. Hassanein, N.N. Al-Warakki)

Level (III) Upper Intermediate

This level aims to strengthen proficiency in the four language skills and expand acquisition of vocabulary through longer, more detailed texts on specific topics: Islam and the Other, tradition stories and folk tales, pillars of Arab culture and society, etc. The Upper Intermediate level also introduces students to interviews, articles, and broadcasts from Arabic news media. In addition to a deeper grasp of the four language skills, level three seeks to lay a strong foundation in Arabic grammar through a survey of important grammatical topics in Modern Standard Arabic.

Requirements: (40-59 Yarmouk University Language Center AFL placement test score)

Duration: 14-16 weeks (15 hours per week: 3 hrs/day, 5 days/week)

Teaching materials

- *Al-Salaam Alykoun: Level III – 2 parts* (Dr. O. Ukasha, Yarmouk University)
- Extracts from: *Logical Connectors in Contemporary Arabic Language* (Dr. A.T. Hassanein, N.N. Al-Warakki)
- Extracts from: Arabic newspapers/magazines: news items, articles, features, polls and advertisements
- Short literary and narrative texts

Level (IV) Advanced

The advanced level is designed to add depth and complexity to a student's grasp of Arabic in all four language areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Level four uses long authentic texts from literature (short stories, poetry, autobiographies, and essays) and news media (magazine articles, broadcast media, and electronic materials). Students engage in detailed discussions and compose essays in response to the topics presented in the aural and written texts, acquiring a diverse vocabulary and employing a variety of transition words and idiomatic phrases. The Advanced level reviews basic grammatical structures and studies more detailed topics of Arabic grammar contextually, taking practical and functional examples from the written texts.

Requirements: (60-79) Yarmouk University Language Center AFL placement test score)

Duration: 14-16 weeks (15 hours per week: 3 hrs/day, 5 days/week).

Teaching materials

- *Al-Salaam Alykoum:* Level IV – 2 parts (Dr. O. Ukasha, Yarmouk University)
- *Functional Arabic:* Level IV (Dr. Z. Al-Qaralla, Al al-Bayt University Series)
- Extracts from Arabic newspapers/magazines: news items, articles, features, polls and advertisements
- Extracts from: *Logical Connectors in Contemporary Arabic Language* (Dr. A.T. Hassanein, N.N. Al-Warakki)

Level (V) Arabic for Special Purposes:

Level Five of the AFL Program is designed to meet the specific needs of interested students, and studies the language as it is used in Islam, news media, business, political and diplomatic contexts, etc. This level requires a strong foundation in Arabic and achieves a depth of focus through extensive reading and listening of a variety of detailed source materials.

Requirements: (40-59 Yarmouk University Language Center AFL placement test score)

Duration: 14-16 weeks (15 hours per week: 3 hrs/day, 5 days/week).

Teaching materials

- *Al-Salaam Alykoum*: Level III – 2 parts (Dr. O. Ukasha, Yarmouk University)
- Extracts from: *Logical Connectors in Contemporary Arabic Language* (Dr. A.T. Hassanein, N.N. Al-Warakki)
- Extracts from Arabic newspapers/magazines: news items, articles, features, polls and advertisements
- Short literary and narrative texts

Conversational Arabic

The AFL Program also offers courses in the Jordanian spoken dialect. Conversational Arabic courses may explore similarities and differences with the vocabulary and grammar of Modern Standard Arabic, and prepare students for spoken interaction in all areas of daily life. Conversational Arabic classes can be offered at high levels and can be tailored to meet a specific thematic focus.

Short-Term Courses

Short-term intensive courses in *Fusha* and/or colloquial Arabic for a period of one to five weeks can be arranged upon request to meet the specific language needs of foreign learners.

THE DETAILS OF THE THREE LEVELS

I. BEGINNERS

(20-25 hours per week)

Speaking	5-6 hours
Writing and dictation	4 hours
Reading comprehension	5-6 hours
Grammar	4 hours
Listening comprehension	5 hours

II. INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

(15-20 hours per week)

Speaking	4 hours
Writing and dictation	3 hours

Reading comprehension 5-6 hours

Grammar 3 hours

Listening comprehension 4 hours

III. ADVANCED LEVEL

(15-20 hours per week)

Speaking 4 hours

Writing 3 hours

Reading comprehension 5-6 hours

Grammar 3 hours

Listening comprehension 4 hours

*** In all levels we can teach colloquial Arabic to help the student communicate with people in the street (1-2 hours per week).

*** Other arrangements can be made to meet the level and the needs of the students.

The Language Laboratory

In all the programs constant use is made of a modern language lab. Language lab sessions are fully integrated into the curriculum. Other teaching aids are also used. Students can also practice the language individually and freely at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the summer)

Aspirations

Yarmouk University Language Center intends to create an M.A. program in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language (TAFL).

Facilities

The Language Center is fully equipped with the-state-of-the-art facilities, including:

- Modern classrooms and teaching aids
- Audio/video language labs
- Computer labs, internet-equipped, with dedicated Arabic resource software.
- Access to University services, halls, and clubs during business hours as well as opportunities for participation in sports, parties, exhibitions and art shows.

Housing Accommodations

Yarmouk University can secure appropriate accommodations on campus. Apartments are modern, furnished, and assigned only to University staff and, if available, to foreign students. They are internet-connected and supplied with TV satellites.

No food is provided in any of the residence halls and the accommodation fee does not cover the cost of meals. However, university cafeterias provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner at a fairly reasonable price

The Library: Al-Hussein bin Talal Library

The University Library is one of the largest research and academic on-line libraries in the Middle East. It provides information resources for its users and is fully computerized making its use very easy and accessible to all people nationwide. It contains more than 600,000 information resources in different languages of all various types of knowledge. It also has a digital information database providing full texts of thousands and thousands of journals, periodicals, books, textbooks, national and international dissertations, and other references. Such digital e-sources are internet data based and can be reached off-and-on-campus via EBSCO, Ebrary, and Proquest systems. Further, the Library has computers for searching the automated library indexes and other reference materials. For more information, please visit: <http://library.yu.edu.jo>

Sports & Recreation

- Gym
- Basketball/volleyball courts
- Football playgrounds
- Tennis courts
- Swimming pool
- Jogging tracks

Language Center Students

- University students (B.A. and graduate students) of all specializations
- Researchers interested in Islam, Arabic culture/literature, or Middle Eastern Studies
- Diplomats
- Businesspersons
- Hotel and Hospital staff
- Expatriate Jordanian spouses and children
- Foreign language instructors at Jordanian Universities
- All interested parties

Foreign students' affairs like visas, residency, and trips are taken care of by both the Department of Public Relations and the Deanship of Student Affairs.

Admissions & Requirements

- Placement test
- Adherence to University rules and regulations
- Payment of tuition and fees

The Cost of Living in Jordan

To cover the expenses of accommodation, meals and pocket money, one needs about \$500 per month.

Timing

The winter timing in Jordan is two hours ahead of Greenwich meantime. Whereas, the summer timing is three hours ahead of Greenwich meantime. The summer timing usually begins in mid April and ends at the end of September.

The Weather

The summer in Jordan is dry and warm. The temperature ranges between 30-36 C. However, winter is warm in Aqaba and in The Jordan Valley, but it is cold in the rest of the country where the temperature ranges between 0-18 C.

Weekend

The weekend in Jordan, for public institutions and markets, is Friday. However, for the University it is Friday and Saturday.

Health Insurance

Students can benefit from the health insurance provided by the University. The University Health Center provides services for insured students free of charge. Non-insured students will be treated at their own expense.

Facilities in the University

The following facilities and services are available on university campus :

- Post Office
- Bank
- Co-operative Consumer Shop
- Book Shop
- Restaurants and Cafeterias
- Athletic and Artistic Activities (swimming pools, gym, soccer fields, etc.)
- University Mosque
- University Library
- Archeology Museum
- Natural History Museum

Arriving in Jordan

All international air flights arrive at Queen Alia International Airport, which is 35 km. south of Amman, the capital of Jordan. You can reach Amman by taxi or by bus. The bus leaves the airport every 30 minutes (from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.).

If you take the bus you can get off at any place you like. The last bus stop station is at TABARBOR-the North Transportation Complex, which is the central bus service station to the northern parts of Jordan. From this station, you can take a bus to Irbid, which is about 90 km. north of Amman. Special arrangements to pick you up from the airport can be made for students who come through official agreements.

The City of Irbid

The city of Irbid is located approximately 90 kilometers northwest of Amman, the Jordanian Capital. It is in the hills of northern Jordan and enjoys temperate weather during the summer. Irbid, the third largest city in Jordan, has a population of approximately 1,200,000. Like many Middle Eastern cities, Irbid has a commercial center where banks and airline offices are located, and a traditional market place where a variety of food items, clothing, jewelry, and household utensils are sold. Both places are within a reasonable walking distance from Yarmouk University. Very inexpensive public transportation is also available.

Along the northern and western sides of Yarmouk campus is yet another commercial strip that targets students' needs. On this strip are restaurants, cafes, bookstores, stationery stores, drug stores, grocery stores (supermarkets), food stands, etc. Students will find practically everything they need on this strip.

Important historical and archaeological sites such as Umm Qais (Roman Gadara), Jerash, Amman, the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley, Aqaba and Petra, are easily accessible from Irbid. Students will have ample opportunities to visit these and other places of interest during the two Program-sponsored educational excursions, on weekends, and during the mid session break.

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