Levantine Arabic II  
*Middle East Institute*

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**Course Goals**  
- elementary conversation skills in Levantine Arabic with an emphasis on common everyday situations  
- development of intermediate level listening comprehension skills in Levantine Arabic dialect  
- awareness of differences in pronunciation and usage among Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian speakers  
- development of conscious awareness of when colloquial language is being used and when standard Arabic is used

**Course Requirements**  
1) daily homework based on the assigned texts and multimedia materials;  
2) weekly homework preparation following the syllabus  
3) written and oral midterm  
4) final oral evaluation

**Prerequisite:** The prerequisite for Levantine II is the completion of Levantine I at MEI or the equivalent, 30 hours of dialect training and at least beginning elementary proficiency in MSA (ARAB 101).

**Grading**  
20% Attendance, preparation, and participation in all conversation sessions. Regular attendance is required in order to pass the course.  
10% On-time submission of weekly assignments due at the end of each week.  
30% Midterm oral evaluation and written examination.  
40% Final oral evaluation. The final oral evaluation must be passed in order to pass the course.
Course Materials
*Syrian Colloquial Arabic, a functional course*, by Mary-Jane Liddicoat, Richard Lennane, and Abdul Rahim. Available for purchase online at [www.syrianarabic.com](http://www.syrianarabic.com)

**Semester Assignments:** Students are responsible for mastering all the assigned materials listed in the course plan. The weekly assignments listed below represent a standard pace for completing the semester’s work. Conversation sections will normally follow this standard pace. The materials for each week should be prepared prior to the conversation section meeting for that week.

**Week:**

**Week 1**

**Assignment:**
Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 5 “That's So Expensive!”
Conversation and Function A – C (do exercises and audio)

LangMedia: Levantine Situational Conversations in the Market
Comparing Things
Going to the Shops
Shopping for Food
Making an order, forming passive participles, expressing agreement

**Conversation session preparation:** Students should be prepared to practice role playing many different types of conversations that would occur in the market place, such as inquiring about the price, weight, and amounts of different types of food, as well as comparing and contrasting goods.

**Week 2**

**Assignment:**
Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 5 “That’s So Expensive! Continued
Conversation and Function D – F (do exercises and audio)

LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons – Shopping, Descriptions, & No
Shopping – Colors and Types of Clothing
Describing individuals’ physical appearance
Negation with *Maa* and *Muu*, and negating questions
Negation idioms – Isn’t it?
Conversation session preparation: Students role play more complex exchanges pertaining to sizing and buying clothing, describing people’s physical appearances, and a variety of different methods of negation.

Week 3: 

Assignment: 
Colloquial Arabic, Unit 6 “When Did You Arrive?” – Functions A - C (do exercises and use audio mp3 files)

LangMedia: Arabic in Jordan –
Talking About Past Events
Talking About Past Occupations
Talking About When You Arrived

Conversation session preparation: Students prepare a dialogue discussing when and how they arrived to a meeting with a business contact. The conversation then transitions into a discussion of past jobs and work experiences, and with students discussing their different duties on the job.

Week 4: 

Assignment: 
Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 6 “Talking About Periods of Time” 
Conversation and Functions D – G

LangMedia: Arabic in Jordan – Lodging

Videos under “Places” and “Everyday Life”
Talking About Periods of Time
Talking About What you see
Explaining Where Things Have Been Put
Giving Reasons and Making Excuses

Conversation session preparation: Students choose learn to discuss several different units of time, including minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years as well as seasons; during this dialogue, students should be able to conjugate a variety of verbs properly for the given time and tense agreement.

Students will make a vocabulary list words related to any objects they may see during the course of a normal day, and also be able to explain where certain objects have been placed. Lastly, students will prepare a rope play dialogue in which they explain decision making processes and give reasons for why a mistake has been
made; in keeping with the theme of this lesson “When you arrived,” the dialogue shall be constructed around why one individual arrived late to work.

**Week 5**

**Assignment:**

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 7 “What Are You Doing”
Conversation and Functions A – C

LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons –
Making Suggestions
Talking About What You Have To Do
Making Invitations

**Conversation session preparation:** Students build a list of nouns, adjectives, and verbs conjugated in the present and imperative tenses. Students will proceed to role play situations in which they must discuss what they have to do for an upcoming party they will be hosting. Lastly, they will invite their classmate over.

**Week 6**

**Assignment:**

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 7 “What Are You Doing”
Conversation and Functions D – F

LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons –
Talking About Daily Routines
Describing Ongoing Activities
Talking About Hobbies

**Conversation session preparation:** Students make a list of vocabulary needed to discuss their daily routines, including waking up, daily hygiene, commuting to work, work responsibilities, and leisure. The students will then create and practice a dialogue in which they must describe, compare, and contrast their typical weekend and weekday activities, with emphasis placed on what they do for fun.

**Week 7**

**Assignment:**

Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 8 “What Shall We Do on Holiday”
Conversation and Functions A – E

LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons –
Giving Orders Around the House and asking for Favors

Talking About Future Arrangements
Talking About Around the House
Giving Orders Around the House
Asking Someone to Do Something For You
Explaining What’s Wrong With You

Conversation session preparation: Students make a list of vocabulary needed to discuss future obligations, life around the home, asking for favors, and explaining problems. Students will then create a practice a dialogue in which they explain a problem that they currently have and ask a friend to do something for them in the future to help overcome that problem.

Week 8

Assignment:
Syrian Colloquial Arabic, Unit 8 “What Shall We Do on Holiday” Conversation and Functions H – F

LangMedia: Levantine Audio Comparisons –
Giving Orders Around the House and asking for Favors

Hiring a Car
Hopes, Advice, Speculating about the Future
Wondering/Wishing…revisiting past possibilities

Conversation session preparation: Students make a list of vocabulary needed to hail a taxi/rent a private driver, outline goals for and speculate about the future, and discuss the past and ways they wish things would have happened differently. The students will then create and practice a dialogue in which they discuss future hopes and aspirations, and why their forward-looking plans will help them avoid unfavorable outcomes of the past.

- Final Oral Examination