

AMIDEAST Education Abroad Programs
ARAB 110: Colloquial Moroccan Arabic IA
Syllabus

Credit Hours: 1 credit

Program Location: Rabat, Morocco

Aims and Objectives of the Course:

This course is intended for students who have no previous experience with Moroccan dialect and possess a beginning proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic. Students are introduced to basic vocabulary, expressions, and grammar structures used frequently in the local environment. This course aims to help students reach a level where they are able to navigate a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in colloquial Arabic in straightforward social situations. Conversation in this course focuses on real life exchanges with host country nationals on common topics that are key to basic functioning in the target language and culture. Some example topics that are typically covered in the course include acquaintances, family and relatives, numbers, days and weather and daily activities. Grammar will also be taught in this course as it relates to the above mentioned topics. By the end of the course, students are able to ask essential questions and understand the responses, express basic facts and opinions in simple sentences, and engage in simple conversations in colloquial Arabic with native speakers.

Learning Objectives

By the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Converse on fundamental, basic daily topics with native speakers.
- Narrate and read informal language (e.g. text messages, cartoons, jokes).
- Utilize almost all of the basic structures of colloquial Moroccan Arabic.
- Ask essential questions and understand the responses.
- Express basic facts and opinions in simple sentences.

Knowledge

This course is designed to assist the students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- Essential vocabulary in the local dialect.
- Basic grammatical forms in the local dialect.
- Culturally appropriate usage of the local dialect.

Competencies:

- **Listening:** This course aids the student in understanding a limited set of introductory colloquial Arabic words as well as short phrases taught in the classroom. By the end of the course the student is able to understand some colloquial Arabic words, passages, simple questions, and commands through repetition of common topics related to the surrounding environment.
- **Speaking:** Students in this course learn new vocabulary related to daily life. By the end of this course, the student is able to speak using very short phrases related to everyday needs.
- **Topics:** Some example topics that are typically covered in the course include acquaintances, Family and relatives, numbers, days and weather and daily activities. Grammar will also be taught in this course as it relates to the above mentioned topics. Some example grammatical rules that are covered in this course include subject and possessive pronouns, question formation (who, what, when, why, where), gender, plurals, and tenses.

Skills

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring or enhancing the following skills:

- Successfully handling a variety of basic communicative tasks and social situations in colloquial Moroccan Arabic.
- Conversation about a variety of basic and social needs.
- Reading authentic, daily materials written in colloquial Arabic such as advertisements, text messages, cartoons, descriptions of people and places, topics on Arab culture, etc.
- Giving short informal talks on topics of interest in colloquial Moroccan Arabic.
- Talking about yourself, your education, and your family with native speakers.
- Understanding some of the differences between formal and spoken Arabic.

Attitudes

This course is designed to encourage development of the following attitudes:

- Appreciation of the Arabic language in general.
- Cultural awareness of appropriate behaviour and colloquial Moroccan Arabic phrases in various social situations.
- Confidence in linguistic and communicative abilities to interact with native speakers.
- Desire to pursue further study of the language.

Required Texts

1. Locally produced textbook: AMIDEAST Darija textbook.
2. Supplemental materials selected by program faculty.

Assessment Overview

Description	Weight	Due Date
Engagement	25%	Continuous
Assignments	25%	Continuous
Quizzes	25%	Quiz 1: Week 2, Wednesday Quiz 2: Week 3, Thursday Quiz 3: Week 4, Friday
Final Exam	25%	Week 5, Tuesday

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Attendance and Engagement

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. Students are further expected to be on time for all classes. Arriving late for class is disrespectful of both the instructor and fellow students.

Overview of Attendance Policy

For Modern Standard Arabic, students are allowed to miss only 4 contact hours (1 full day of instruction) unexcused before their overall grade is reduced. A student's grade for the course will be lowered by one "mark" for each additional unexcused absence (2 contact hours is equal to one absence). Being absent for more than 4 contact hours will result in one letter grade deduction from the student's final grade for every 2 hours of unexcused absence beyond the allowed limit. In other words, if a student misses an additional 2 hours of instruction (for a total of 6 hours of unexcused absences) an "A" will become "A-", after 8 total hours of unexcused absence an "A" becomes a "B+"; after 10 total hours of unexcused absence an "A" becomes a "B", etc.; etc.

For Colloquial Arabic, students are allowed to miss only 2 contact hours unexcused before their overall grade is reduced. A student's grade for the course will be lowered by one "mark" for each additional unexcused absence (1 contact hour is equal to one absence). Being absent for more than 2 contact hours will result in one letter grade deduction from the student's final grade for every 1 hour of unexcused absence beyond the allowed limit. In other words, if a student misses an additional 1 hour of instruction (for a total of 3 hours of unexcused absences) an "A" will become "A-", after 4 total hours of unexcused absence an "A" becomes a "B+"; after 5 total hours of unexcused absence an "A" becomes a "B", etc.; etc.

An unexcused absence is one not caused by illness or otherwise not approved by AMIDEAST staff. An excused absence means written approval from the Program Manager (and sometimes a doctor) justifying the absence. Arriving late to class may also count towards an absence.

The engagement grade will depend on both the quality and the quantity of student's comments and questions and shall account for a portion of the total course grade.

Summary of Attendance Policy

1. Three occurrences of tardiness are equivalent to one unexcused absence; each subsequent instance of tardiness is considered an additional unexcused absence.
2. Students are expected to do the required reading before class, volunteer for presentations and participate actively in class discussions.
3. Excused absences are determined by the lead AMIDEAST staff member; in some instances a doctor's certification may be required.
4. Deadlines must be respected, even in cases of excused absences.
5. Students are responsible for getting homework assignments they miss and submitting it in a timely manner. Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a penalty to be determined by the instructor.
6. Any assignments not submitted will result in that assignment being given a grade of 0 (zero).
7. The Attendance Policy is applied until the last day of the program.

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Assignments

There will be daily assignments due at the beginning of class on the day assigned by the instructor. Late homework assignments may be checked by the instructor, but will not be given any credit. Students are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together. Students should follow up on any instructor comments on the homework. It is the students' responsibility to come to office hours to see their instructors when questions arise.

Quizzes: There will be three oral quizzes, which will last about 10 minutes each.

Final Exam: The final examination will cover material studied during session 1.

Grading Scale

Numerical	Grade	Basic Grade Point	Grade Range
93-100	A	4.0	3.86-4.00
90-92	A-	3.7	3.46-3.85
87-89	B+	3.3	3.16-3.45
83-86	B	3.0	2.86-3.15
80-82	B-	2.7	2.46-2.85
77-79	C+	2.3	2.16-2.45
73-76	C	2.0	1.86-2.15
70-72	C-	1.7	1.36-1.85
60-69	D	1.0	0.51-1.35
Below 60	F	0.0	0.00-0.50

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Course Schedule

Date	Activity	Homework assignments	Exams
Week 1, Thursday	Greetings and courtesies Speaking & listening: Saying hello Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject pronouns 	Assigned exercise	
Week 1, Friday	Greetings and courtesies Speaking & listening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting yourself Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes / no questions Gender: (fem.- masc. nouns)	Assigned exercise	
Week 2, Monday	Greetings and courtesies Speaking & listening: Presenting others Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessive pronouns • Numerals (cardinal numbers) 	Assigned exercise	
Week 2, Tuesday	Family Speaking & listening: My family members Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definite article 	Assigned exercise	
Week 2, Wednesday	Family Speaking & listening: Drawing a family tree Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalities • WH questions 	Assigned exercise	Quiz 1
Week 2, Thursday	Family Speaking & listening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting my family Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plurals Past tense	Assigned exercise	
Week 2, Friday	Review		

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Week 3, Monday	Relatives Speaking & listening: In the Restaurant Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrative Pronouns 	Assigned exercise	
Week 3, Tuesday	Relatives Speaking & listening: Call a friend / help Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerals (cardinal numbers) 	Assigned exercise	
Week 3, Wednesday	Excursion to Fez and Volubilis	No Class	
Week 3, Thursday	The weather Speaking & listening: I Like / Dislike Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possessive word "dya" • The construct phrase (Idaafa) 	Assigned exercise	Quiz 2
Week 3, Friday	The weather Speaking & listening: My favorite weather Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominal sentences • Present tense 	Assigned exercise	
Week 4, Monday	The weather Speaking & listening: How is the weather in your city? Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrative adjectives • Adverbs 	Assigned exercise	
Week 4, Tuesday	Daily Activities Speaking & listening: Telling time Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerals (Ordinal numbers) • Time 	Assigned exercise	
Week 4, Wednesday	Daily Activities Speaking & listening: My favorite hobby Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present + past tense 	Assigned exercise	

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Week 4, Thursday	Daily Activities Speaking & listening: The week activities Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negating Present tense (regular verbs) 	Assigned exercise	
Week 4, Friday First Lesson	Grammar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepositions (في - على - ... من - مع - بين) Past tense (Regular verbs) Negating verbs 	Assigned exercise	Quiz 3
Week 5, Monday	General Review for the Exam		
Week 5, Tuesday 11:30am- 12:30pm	Final Exam		Final Exam
Week 5, Wednesday MCA Reflection: 10:45-11:45am	Reflection Day (for students that are only doing Session 1. Students also doing Session 2 are off this day)		

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