



(AB 132) MOROCCAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC SYLLABUS LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: NOVICE ABROAD

IES ABROAD RABAT

DESCRIPTION:

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 will be able to understand some colloquial Arabic words, passages, simple questions, and commands through repetition of common topics related to the surrounding environment. Students in this course learn new vocabulary related to daily life. By the end of this course, the student will be able to speak using very short phrases related to everyday needs. Some example topics that are typically covered in the course include acquaintances, numbers, days and weather, daily activities, eating and drinking. Grammar will also be taught in this course as it relates to the above-mentioned topics.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Arabic

INSTRUCTOR:

PREREQUISITES: No Arabic courses are required for this course

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

The course contents will be delivered by applying a communicative student-centered methodology. The first approximation to the contents will be through texts (written and oral). Students will work individually, in pairs and in groups in order to acquire and to practice (in writing and orally) the new structures, functions and vocabulary. Also, homework will be assigned so that the students can practice, and clarify doubts.

There will be special assignments related to field study trips. The city of Rabat and its people are the perfect scenario for practicing the target language and learning about the ways people live. Therefore, we will draw on this setting to collect pieces of information for our class discussions and to develop a firsthand appreciation of the Arabic language.

Information and communication technology will be present in the classroom. Some assignments will involve internet research. The e-learning module Moodle will provide instructions, assignments, and ancillary materials and activities.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Attending classes on a regular basis and participating actively in classes.
- Preparing well for the classes.
- Organizing homework and presenting them on time.
- Using new vocabulary and grammar rules both for homework assignments and classroom discussions.
- Allowing more time and effort to the class.
- Doing extra activities in developing the language and communicating with it.
- There will be one midterm exam and a final exam at the end.

GRADING:

Description	Weight
Attendance	10%
Class participation	10%
Homework	20%
Oral presentation	20%
Outside/Group activities (field trip)	20%
Exam	20%

COURSE ELEMENTS:

Participation: Participation is essential in this course. Students are required to study assigned materials and to participate actively both in the group activities and in the discussions with other students.

Oral Presentation: Oral presentations are designed to help students actively practice Moroccan Colloquial Arabic (Darija) in structured yet creative ways. Each student will deliver at least one presentation during the semester, related to vocabulary, grammar, or cultural themes covered in class (e.g., family, food, shopping, daily life, or traditions). Presentations will be graded on **content accuracy**, **organization**, **linguistic performance**, and **creativity**. Constructive peer feedback may also form part of the assessment process.

Outside/Group Activities and Course-Related Field Trips : Field studies are an integral part of the course, designed to bridge classroom learning with real-life application. Students will participate in **2–4 organized field trips** (e.g., cafés, markets, museums, or cultural sites), each linked to specific class themes such as food, shopping, family, and daily routines.

During these outings, students are expected to:

- **Actively engage in communication:** Practice the target language with locals in authentic settings.
- **Collect information:** Take notes or short recordings to bring back to class discussions.
- **Complete follow-up tasks:** Write a brief report, reflection, or group presentation about the field experience.
- **Collaborate effectively:** Work with peers to share findings, compare experiences, and expand vocabulary.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- **SPEAKING AND LISTENING:**
You will be using Darija to talk about your daily activities and to express your personal interests. You will also be able to talk about different social and cultural subjects.
- **READING:**
You will be able to read new Darija texts and develop your understanding skills using means of description, comparison, and discussion, and getting better knowledge of Moroccan culture.
- **WRITING:**
You will develop your writing skills from writing short sentences to writing paragraphs using correct Moroccan Darija.
- **CULTURE:**
You will be exposed to cultural, social and historical aspects of Morocco.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course half a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

CONTENT:

Week	Session	Content	Readings and materials
Week 1	Session 1	Introduction to the course • Function: Introductions and meeting: Where do I/you live, study? • Grammar: Pronouns, Masculine and Feminine nouns, Interrogatives.	• Interviewing classmates in order to know each other.
	Session 2	• Vocabulary: Getting acquainted. • Culture: Terms of address	• Students introduce themselves to their host families
Week 2	Session 3	Self-Introduction and Personal Information • Function: Identifying self and others by nationality, location, and occupation. Asking for and giving addresses and phone numbers • Grammar: Nominal sentences. Using adjectives (Countries and nationalities)	• Introducing oneself to others. • Search the Internet to find a US map.
	Session 4	• Vocabulary: Countries and nationalities, occupations, numerals (0-10). • Culture: How to get acquainted	• Describe the location, the state, the university where they study.
Week 3	Session 5	Talking about Family : • Function: Talking about immediate family, Converting currencies to the Moroccan Dirham. • Grammar: Possessive pronouns, Adjectives (genre and number), Demonstrative pronouns.	• Presenting the student's family to the class. • Students present their monthly budget in the Moroccan currency.
	Session 6	• Vocabulary: Family members, Numerals (11–100), Moroccan currency: coins and banknotes. • Culture: The family and the importance of neighbors, Moroccan currency. • Field trip 1: A Visit to a Cafe	• Writing a Report about the field trip

Week 4	Session 7	Talking about Extended Family: • Function: Talking about extended family and friends, making a phone call from inside and outside Morocco. • Grammar: Verb overview. PAST tense.	• Interviewing a classmate's peer about his /her schedule.
	Session 8	• Vocabulary: Family members (cont.). Times and parts of the day. Daily activities. • Culture: Moroccan tea. Moroccan schedules.	• Make a phone call to inquire about the extended family (members)
Week 5	Session 9	Daily Life Activities: • Function: Narrating in the present and the past. • Grammar: Negating verbs. Negating words other than verbs.	• Interviewing a person outside the classroom about his/her daily activities.
	Session 10	• Vocabulary: Daily activities. • Culture: The public bath. Folk traditions Field trip 2: A Visit to a Museum	• Presentations: The daily life of an American student in Rabat. • Writing a Report about the Field Trip
Week 6	Session 11	• Review	• Review
	Session 12	• Mid-term Exam	• Mid-term Exam
Week 7	Session 13	Midterm break	
	Session 14	Midterm break	
Week 8	Session 15	Discribing and Ordering Meals: • Function: Giving orders politely at a café. Describing & ordering meals. Expressing wishes & desires. • Grammar: The imperative.	• Role play: A dialogue in a restaurant or at a café. Internet research and Oral presentation about a typical Moroccan dish. • Deciding if the student follows a healthy diet.

	Session 16	• Vocabulary: Food and drinks. Meals and ingredients. Daily meals. Food habits. • Culture: Moroccan food. Menus and meals in Morocco Filed Trip 3: Go to a Supermarket	• Writing a Report about the field trip
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Week 9	Session 17	Shopping: • Function: Shopping at different places (souks markets, hypermarkets). • Grammar: Relative clauses. Irregular verbs.	• Role play: Students buy items from a corner shop.
	Session 18	• Vocabulary: Shopping items. Shopping places. • Culture: Shopping in traditional weekly souk (traditional markets)	• Presentation: Students compare Moroccan traditional souks with modern supermarkets
Week 10	Session 19	Food & Drinks: • Function: Ordering a meal at a restaurant. Describing & ordering meals. Expressing wishes & desires • Grammar: Active & passive participles. Auxiliary (to be)	• Role play: Ordering meals at traditional restaurants and at modern restaurants
	Session 20	• Vocabulary: Dishes. Food items. • Culture: Traditional Moroccan dishes.	• Presentations: Food student seats in the States and in Morocco.
Week 11	Session 21	Making Reservations: • Function: - Making a hotel reservation. Asking for and giving instructions. Describing rooms, houses, and places. • Grammar: Prepositions. Using pronouns with verbs and prepositions.	• Making a hotel reservation Asking for directions. Giving directions.
	Session 22	• Vocabulary: Rooms in a house. Places in the city. • Culture: Names of places. The concept of Medina.	
Week 12	Session 23	Talking about Hobbies & Interests • Function: Hobbies & pastimes. Asking about and reporting the weather. • Grammar: Superlatives. Verbal nouns.	• Presentations: Talking about hobbies. Interpreting Weather Maps

	Session 24	• Vocabulary: Hobbies. Weather. • Culture: Regions in Morocco. • Filed Trip 4: Visit Marina Sale	• Writing a Report about the field trip
Week 13	Session 25	Means of Transportation • Function: Inquiring about bus and train schedules. Making future plans. • Grammar: Future tense. Conditional.	• Looking for travel deals on the internet, choosing one and presenting it to the rest of the class
	Session 26	• Vocabulary: Means of Transportation & Travel. • Culture: Traditional means of transport inside and outside the city. • Review and Final Exam	• Review for Final Exam

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- This course will include **two to four field studies**; each directly linked to the topics covered in class. These practical outings are designed to reinforce learning in real-life settings. For example, students may visit a café to practice ordering food and drinks in the target language, or they might go to a supermarket to engage in conversations about food items, quantities, and prices. Such activities provide an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in authentic contexts, helping students build both confidence and fluency in everyday communication.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Materials are prepared by the IES Abroad language faculty. The teaching materials include conversations, pictures, listening, and cultural Moroccan stories.

NOTE: Contents and dates are subject to change, in the event of which all students will be informed. Religious holidays follow a lunar calendar. The dates on this syllabus are approximate.



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