

# Jordan

## Modernization and Social Change

Examine critical issues in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a moderate Arab state confronting political responsibilities, social change, and the effects of regional conflict.

## Coursework

### Modernization and Social Change Seminar

MDES 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine the major national and international forces shaping contemporary Jordan, including the rapid transformations of land and technology, shifting identities and gender roles, economic and social development practices and regulations, immigration, youth, media, and religion. Lecturers are drawn from institutions including the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Ministry of Social Development, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Political Development.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Jordan in Transition: History, Politics, Culture, Identity*

British colonial influence; tribal role in politics; monarchy and modernization; Islamic principles; urban social mores; media and press freedom; *wasta* (social connections); immigrant workers; the role of minority groups in government.

#### *Palestine and Middle East Politics*

Peace and conflict in the Middle East; Jordan and Palestine—common histories; Palestinian refugees; Jordan's relations with other Arab states; Iraqi refugees in Jordan; youth panel on politics in the Middle East.

#### *Political Islam*

Islamic parties and democratic participation; revival of Islam; Islam and modernity; women in Islam; the future of Islamist movements in the Middle East.

#### *Gender Issues*

Women's role in politics; women's economic participation; honor crimes; violence against women; gendered spaces; Islamic interpretations of gender; feminism in the Middle East; Jordanian families; family planning and women's health; gender-related development issues.

### Approaches to Development

Structure and transformations of the Jordanian economy; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and social development; development, ecology, and environmental policy in Jordan; poverty in urban and rural areas; technology and modernization; ecotourism; private enterprise and government regulations; Qualified Industrial Zones in Jordan.

### Educational Excursions

The program includes excursions within Jordan to explore the country's ancient heritage and contemporary cultures. Students visit Aqaba to explore the effects of large-scale economic development. Visits to the DANA Nature Reserve, Wadi Rum, and Petra reveal the effects of social change on local communities. A longer excursion to Egypt, conditions permitting, provides opportunities for regional cultural, political, and economic comparisons.

### Intensive Language Study: Arabic

ARAB 1000–3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours  
Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills in Modern Standard Arabic through classroom and field instruction. Students are placed in intensive beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing. Further language practice is available in homestays and on field visits. A component on Jordanian Colloquial Arabic is also part of the course.

### Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing observation and interviewing skills; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

## NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Amman

**Language Study** Arabic

**Homestay** Amman, 12 weeks

**Rural Visit/Homestay** Badia area, 5 days

**Other Accommodations** Hostels, research institutes, or small hotels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** None

### Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Amman or another approved location in Jordan appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** political power of tribes; social change through modern art; the Christian population in Amman; nationalism in Jordan; women's participation in Jordanian civil society; Islam and state development discourses; NGOs and donor interaction in Jordan; freedom of expression in the Jordanian press; relationships among Jordanian youth.

**Please note:** This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

Please visit [www.sit.edu/JOR](http://www.sit.edu/JOR) for details.