

**UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN**

**Faculty of Graduate Studies / College of Foreign Languages  
Department of English Language and Literature**

**Course Title:** Lexicology and Dictionaries **Course Code:** 1532737 Graduate

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisite:** None

**Duration of Course:** 16 Weeks

**Objectives:**

The main objectives of the course are:

1. To acquaint students with new developments in the fields of lexicology and lexicography.
2. To help students understand such topics as linguistic and extra-linguistic lexical relations, etymology, componential analysis and semantic relations.
3. To investigate the proper use (and possible development) of monolingual and bilingual dictionaries.
4. To explore the potential application of the above to the process of translation.

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

**Subject-Specific Skills:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Realize the relationship between findings in lexicology and their applications to dictionaries.
2. Make a constructive contribution to the improvement of Arabic-English and English-Arabic dictionaries.
3. Understand the underlying relationship between lexicology and lexicography together with an examination of the place of semantics in this context.
4. Learn how to evaluate dictionaries, and recognize good features as well as discover deficiencies.

### **Core Academic Skills:**

At the end of the course, students are expected to have developed the skills required to do further research on words, meanings, dictionary-making and comparative Arabic-English lexical, semantic and lexicographical issues.

### **Personal and Key Skills:**

At the end of the course, students are expected to know:

1. How to investigate emerging phenomena in the fields of lexicology and lexicography, including those related to coinage, derivation, inclusion in dictionaries of new lexemes, etymology, comparative and diachronic analysis.
2. How to apply their expanding knowledge in the field to the craft of dictionary-making, particularly bilingual dictionaries.
3. How to apply their findings to translation, especially from Arabic into English.

### **Learning / Teaching Methods:**

Introductory lectures, individual student presentations, group discussions, analysis and regular feedback. The principal teaching tool will be the textbook and student handouts, supplemented on occasion by personal observation and student-constructed questionnaires. Student handouts will be based on the textbook and supplementary literature on the subject.

### **Assignments:**

Students will be assigned topics (or one major topic) in which they will explore ways and means of improving the making of dictionaries, especially in the bilingual domain, or look into a comparative or contrastive situation involving English and Arabic.

### **Assessment:**

**Test: 30%    Term Paper: 30%    Final Examination: 40%**

## Syllabus Plan:

Week	Topic	Hrs.	Comment
1.	Introduction: course content, research emphasis, interdependence of disciplines, methods of teaching, learning and presentation.	3	
2.	What is a Word? A brief history of dictionaries.	3	
3.	Evaluating Dictionaries.	3	
4.	Dictionaries: The Repositories of Words.	3	
5.	How to go about writing definitions?	3	
6.	Equivalence: A cardinal principle.	3	
7.	Analyzing Word Meanings	3	
8.	a. Meanings from Combinations. b. Kinds of meaning discrimination.	1.5 1.5	
9.	a. How to Define a Word: Mistakes in defining. b. More than Meaning.	1.5 1.5	
10.	a. Different Dictionaries b. Reversibility.	1.5 1.5	
11.	a. Bidirectionality and monodirectionality. b. Grammatical information.	1.5 1.5	
12.	a. Craft of Lexicography. b. Lexicology, Lexicography and Semantics	1.5 1.5	
13.	The bilingual dictionary as an index.	3	
14.	Monodirectional bilingual dictionaries .	3	
15.	Discussion of Term Papers.	3	
16.	Final Examination	2 +	

## Indicative Basic Reading List

### A. Textbooks

1. Dictionaries. A book compiled by Roger Steiner. 2009.
2. monolingual (English) dictionary no smaller than the "concise" type.
3. Arabic/English and English/Arabic dictionary.
4. Words: A Guide to Formation and Usage: Book 2 by W.d Sheeler and R.W. Markley 2008.
5. Issues in Lexicology: Selected articles compiled by the instructor.

## B. References:

- Al-Khanji, Rajai. Interacting with Bilingual Dictionaries Through a Translation Task. In *Dirasat*, Vol. 25, No. 1, PP. 211-219. 1998.
- Audience Judgement and the Role of the Terminologist in Technical Lexicography. In *Papers and Studies in Contrastive Linguistics*, Vol. 35, PP. 83-94. 1999.
- Al-Kasimi, Ali M. *Linguistics and Bilingual Dictionaries*, E.J. Brill, 2007.
- Butros, Albert. "The Development of the English Dictionary," *Faculty of Arts Journal* (University of Jordan), Vol. 1, January 1969, pp. 5-23.
- "The English Language and Non-Native Writers of Fiction," *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies*, Vol. 5, 2004, pp. 59-92
- Cruse, D. A. *Lexical Semantics*, Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Diab, Turki. *Pedagogical Lexicography*. Niemeyer. 1990.
- Hartman R.R. *Teaching and Researching Lexicography*. Longman. 2001.
- Ison, Robert (ed.). *Dictionaries, Lexicography and Language Learning*, Pergamon Press/British Council, 1999.
- Lamb, Sydney, M. "Lexicology and Semantics," *Linguistics, Forum Lectures*, 1968, pp. 44-54.
- Steiner, Roger J. "The Absence of Text: The Bilingual Dictionary as an Index," *International Journal of Lexicography*, Vol. II, No. 3, Oxford University Press, 1989. UP, 1989.
- A number of published papers.