

Society & Politics of North Africa

**** Tentative schedule - some field trip dates/destinations may change slightly ****

Society and Politics of North Africa

SOCY S236, MMES S285, AFST S325, HIST S236, GLBL S361

Yale University

Summer Session B 2022

July 2 - August 6

Building 8B Room 109, M-F 10:00-12:00 (Except field trip days)

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Course Description and Goals

This is a five-week two-credit course to be conducted in Morocco. The goal of the course is to provide a thorough introduction to North African societies and politics. The Maghrib (the “farthest west” in Arabic)—encompassing Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya—has historically been a critical frontier zone linking Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. This cross-roads region continues to remain strategically important with sub-Saharan and North African migration, political Islam, terrorism/counter-terrorism, the Sahara question, Islam-West relations, and Mediterranean trade relationships among the current pressing international concerns related to the Maghrib.

The course will meet ca. five days a week (in classroom or on field trips), with each week exploring a prominent theme related to North African society and politics, including an overview of Maghrib history, the legacies of colonialism and nationalism, political systems and opposition, Islam in North Africa, and the Maghrib in the 21st century. To maximize the opportunity of being taught on site in the region, the course’s subject matter will be interwoven with multiple field trips, including visits to the four historic imperial cities of Morocco (Fes, Meknes, Rabat, and Marrakech). It will also immerse students through meetings with local experts, interaction with Moroccan university students, and optional home stays with Moroccan families.

Reading List:

Wyrzten, Jonathan. (2015). [*Making Morocco: Colonial Intervention and the Politics of Identity* \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (Use Promo Code "CAU6" for 30% off)

Willis, M. (2014). [*Politics and Power in the Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco from Independence to the Arab Spring* \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (1 edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

All other readings including selected chapters and journal articles available electronically.

North Africa FILM RECOMMENDATIONS (not required)

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Quizzes	10%
Weekly Reading Responses (posted to course blog)	40%
Homestay Reflection (from 8-12 pgs)	30%

Note on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the standards prescribed in the Undergraduate Regulations publication (<http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/publications/uregs/appendix/cheating.html>) regarding cheating, plagiarism, and documentation. Appropriately using and documenting sources is an integral component of developing necessary professional and academic skills. Students are encouraged to access the resources available through the Writing Center website (<http://www.yale.edu/bass/writing/sources/why.html>) when preparing writing assignments.

Course Calendar

BASED AT [AL AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY](#) IN IFRANE FOR THREE WEEKS

Sa 7/2 ARRIVAL AND SETTLE INTO ROOMS AT AL AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Su 7/3 **Orientation to AUI and Ifrane and tour 2:00pm Building 4 Room 107**

WEEK 1: Panoramic Views of North African History

M 7/4 Major Questions about the Maghrib: Geography and environment? Arabs and Berbers? Islam? Colonialism and Nationalism? Islam? Gender? Migration? Demographics and Human Development?

- Naylor, Philp. 2009. *North Africa: a history from antiquity to the present*. Austin: University of Texas. [\[Introduction\]](#)
- Brown, L. Carl. 1997. “[Maghrib Historiography: The Unit of Analysis Problem](#).” In Le Gall and Perkins, *The Maghrib in Question*. Austin: University of Texas. Pp. 4-16.
- Scott, James. [The Art of Not Being Governed](#). London: Yale University Press, 2009. (pp. 1-13, 22-32)
- Wyrzten, Introduction

15:00 Moroccan Arabic lesson with Prof. Ali Azeriah (Building 8B Room 109)

18:30 Welcome Dinner (Meet at Bus Stop)

T 7/5 Ancient North Africa: From Prehistory to the Byzantines

- Naylor, [Chapter 1-2](#)

15:00 Moroccan Arabic lesson with Prof. Ali Azeriah (Building 8 Room 109)

W 7/6 **DAY TRIP (Meet at 8:15 at Front Bus Shelter):** Volubulis (Roman city), Moulay Idriss Zerhoun (shrine-city for oldest Moroccan Muslim saint), Tomb of Sidi Ali Hamdouch, tea in Imperial Meknes, Palace of Moulay Idriss

Th 7/7 Varieties of Islamic State Formation in North Africa (10:30-12:30PM)

- Khaldun, Ibn. [*The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History*](#). Princeton Univ. Press (Bollingen Series), 2005. (xxxvii-xliv, 91-132)
- Wyrzten, Chapter 1

*QUIZ 1 – Maghrib Map ([Morocco](#) and [North Africa](#)) [Term Bank]

F 7/8 -Su 7/10 **SAHARA WEEKEND TRIP: [Tafilelt Oasis](#), [Sijilmasa](#), [Alawite Governor's Palace](#), and [Merzouga Dunes](#)**

Background Reading:

Messier, Ronald A., and James Andrew Miller. 2015. *The Last Civilized Place: Sijilmasa and Its Saharan Destiny*. First edition. Austin: University of Texas Press. [Prologue: Ibn Batutta's Sijilmasa Journey](#)"

(Leaving 8:30am Friday from front bus shelter, returning Sunday late afternoon)

WEEK 2: Legacies of Colonialism and Nationalism

M 7/11 19th-20th Century European Colonization: Penetration, Pacification, and State-Building

- Lapidus, Ira. 1999. *A History of Islamic Societies*. Cambridge. [[Chapter 26 "North Africa in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries"](#)]
- Wyrzten, Chapter 2

15:00 Moroccan Arabic lesson with Prof. Ali Azeriah (Building 8B Room 109)

T 7/12 **DAY TRIP: [Zaouia Ifrane hike \(Links to an external site.\)](#)** in Middle Atlas, Azrou, see [Barbary monkeys \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Meet at 8:15AM at Cafeteria (to pick up lunches)

W 7/13 Colonial Logics of Legibility/Legitimization and Local Resistance and Accommodation

- Wyrzten, 3-5

Optional readings:

- Rabinow, Paul. (1995). [*French Modern: Norms and Forms of Social Environment*](#). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 104-125, 277-319.
- Diana Davis. (2004). "[Desert 'wastes' of the Maghreb: desertification narratives in French colonial environmental history of North Africa](#)." *Cultural Geographies*, 11, pp. 359-87.
- 15:00-16:00 Moroccan Arabic lesson with Prof. Ali Azeriah (Building 8B Room 109)

18:00-20:30 PM - Field trip to Tarmilat community and women's textile cooperative (meet at bus shelter at 18:00)

Th 7/14 Anti-Colonial Nationalism and Decolonization

- Wyrzten, Chapter 8-9
- Watch [Battle of Algiers](#)

Th Afternoon 7/14-7/17 Free Long Weekend

WEEK 3: Post-Colonial Political Systems, Opposition, and Reform

M 7/18 Post-Colonial State Formation and Modes of Opposition (Islamist, Berber, Feminist)

- Willis, Chapter 2-4

15:00-16:00 Moroccan Arabic lesson with Prof. Ali Azeriah (Building 8B Room 109)

T 7/19 Intra-Maghrib and International Relations (The Western Sahara issue, Algerian Civil War, Maghrib Union, European Union) **SPECIAL GUEST: Prof. Nizar Messari (Al Akhawayn University)**

- Willis, Chapters 8-9
- Campos-Serrano, Alicia, and José Antonio Rodríguez-Esteban. 2017. "[Imagined Territories and Histories in Conflict during the Struggles for Western Sahara, 1956–1979](#)." *Journal of Historical Geography* 55 (January): 44–59. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhg.2016.11.009>

SPECIAL TOPIC SESSION: Migration and Race in the Maghrib (Special Guests: Leslie Gross Wyrzten, Karen Thomas Smith)

- “Morocco’s Triple Role in the Euro-African Migration System.” n.d. Middle East Institute. Accessed June 6, 2018. <https://www.mei.edu/content/map/moroccos-triple-role-euro-african-migration-system> (Links to an external site.).
- Medecins Sans Frontiers. 2013. "[Violence, Vulnerability and Migration: Trapped at the Gates of Europe](#) (Links to an external site.)." (For reference, also, FYI, this recounts violent episodes in somewhat graphic detail)

W 7/20 **DAY TRIP: Historic Fez Medina** (meet at 8:30 at Bus Shelter)

Th 7/21 Gender, Legal Reform, Media, and Socio-Political Struggle

- Wyrzten, Chapter 7
- Žvan Elliott, K. (2020). “[It's Too Much!': Victims of Gender-Based Violence Encounter The Moroccan State.](#)” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 52(1), 49-66. doi:10.1017/S0020743819000928
- Kenza Oumlil.2017. "[The representation of women in Moroccan television talk shows.](#)" *The Journal of North African Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/13629387.2017.1307901
- WATCH: [Media Representation in Morocco](#) (and [backstory](#))

FOR REFERENCE: The Moroccan Family Code (Moudawana) of February 5, 2004. Available at <http://www.hrea.org/moudawana.html> (Links to an external site.)

[GUEST SPEAKER: Prof. Kenza Oumlil, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco]

*QUIZ 2 – Key terms [Term Bank]

F 7/22 The Jewish Question in North Africa

- Wyrzten, Chapter 6, Negotiating Morocco's Jewish Question
- Gottreich, Emily. 2007. [Chapter 3](#) and [Chapter 4](#). *The Mellah of Marrakesh*.Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

*Complete check out form for AUI

WEEK 4: Essaouira, Marrakesh, and High Atlas Trip

Sat 7/23 Checkout from AUI, leave keys at Building 34, van pick up for transport
Saturday morning departure to Essaouira at **8:30**

Drive to Essaouira and Check-in to [Riad Terrasses d'Essaouira](#)

Sun 7/24 Free day in Essaouira

M 7/25 Essaouira to Marrakesh: drive to Marrakesh, check-in [hotel](#), afternoon pool-time, evening tour of Jmaa el-Fna in medina

T 7/26 - Morning tour of Marrakesh medina (Saadian Tombs, Mellah, Badia Saadian Palace, Bahia Palace)

W 7/27 - High Atlas

Th 7/28 - Drive to Rabat, arrive ca. 5PM, Homestay orientation and meet homestay families at [CCCL \(Center for Cross-Cultural Learning\)](#)

WEEK 5: The Maghrib in the 21st Century

All classes from 10-12 in morning, followed by lunch at CCCL

Fri 7/29

Sa 7/30 – Su 7/31 Free weekend settling into Rabat life

M 8/1 Arab-Berber, Whiteness-Blackness and Ethno-Racial Boundaries

- Willis, Chapter 6
- Hoffman, Katherine. "Internal Fractures in the Berber-Arab Distinction: From Colonial Practice to Post-National Preoccupations ." In *Berbers and Others*, Pp. 39-62.
- El-Hamel, Chouki. "Chapter 3: The Trans-Saharan Diaspora ," *Black Morocco*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Gross-Wyrtzen, Leslie. 2020. “[Contained and Abandoned in the ‘Humane’ Border: Black Migrants’ Immobility and Survival in Moroccan Urban Space.](https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775820922243)” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, May, 0263775820922243. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775820922243>

T 8/2 The 2011 Arab Uprisings and their, Aftermath --Present Hirak Protests and Prospects for Democratization and Political Pluralism across North Africa

WATCH (40 mins): "[My Makhzen and Me](#)" (2012)

- Wyrzten. 2011. Reflections from Morocco on the Arab Spring *Trajectories*, Spring 2011, Vol. 22, No.2.
- Wolf, Anne. 2019. “Morocco’s Hirak Movement and Legacies of Contention in the Rif.” *The Journal of North African Studies* 24 (1): 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629387.2018.1538188>.
- Haleh Davis, Muriam. 2019. "The Layers of History Beneath Algeria's Protests." *Current History*.

OPTIONAL READING: Wyrzten (forthcoming), "North African Trajectories Towards Constitutional Multiculturalism: Download North African Trajectories Towards Constitutional Multiculturalism: The Cases of Morocco and Algeria Download The Cases of Morocco and Algeria"

W 8/3 DAY TRIP: Casablanca

Departure to Casa from CCCL

Meeting with NGOs- Solidarité Feminine (women's empowerment) / Lunch at SF

hospitality training center

Tour of Hassan II Mosque

Tour of downtown Casablanca (medina/ville nouvelle) guided

by <http://www.casamemoire.org/> Casamemoire

- Combs-Schilling, “[Performing Monarchy, Staging Nation](#),” in *In the Shadow of the Sultan*, pp. 176-214.

Th 8/4 21st C Issues in Maghrib [Student's Topic Choice Option!]

- Haas, Hein de. 2008. “[The Myth of Invasion: The Inconvenient Realities of African Migration to Europe.](https://doi.org/10.1080/01436590802386435)” *Third World Quarterly* 29 (7): 1305–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436590802386435>.
- Kasraoui, Safaa. 2019. “These Core Policies Position Morocco Among Global Climate Leaders.” *Morocco World News* (blog). September 15,

2019. <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2019/09/282602/policies-position-morocco-global-climate-leaders/>

- Rignall, Karen Eugenie. 2015. “ [Solar Power, State Power, and the Politics of Energy Transition in Pre-Saharan Morocco:](#)” *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, December. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X15619176>
- Jacobs, A. A. G. and A. L. (2020, July 20). China in the Mediterranean: Implications of expanding Sino-North Africa relations. *Brookings*. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FP_20200720_china_mediterranean_ghafar_jacobs.pdf
- Abouzzohour, Y. (2021, March 22). One year of COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa: The fate of the ‘best performers.’ *Brookings*. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/03/22/one-year-of-covid-19-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa-the-fate-of-the-best-performers/>
- Marks, J. (2019, January 24). Morocco’s pivot to Africa hints at a new post-colonial order. *Financial Times*. <https://www.ft.com/content/ed1b4cb8-fefe-11e8-b03f-bc62050f3c4e>

* Lunch and Afternoon discussion with Moroccan University Students

F 8/5 Wrap Up Discussion

- Wyrzten, Conclusion

FRIDAY NIGHT: Farewell Dinner 7:15 PM MEET AT CCCL for dinner at [Riad Kalaa](#)

FINAL PAPER DUE: 5pm 8/6

Sa 8/6 Depart (Fly out from Rabat, Casablanca, Fez airports)