

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)



**** Draft version - minor adjustments possible ****

Society and Politics of North Africa

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

Yale University

Summer Session B 2019

June 30 - August 3

Instructor: Jonathan Wyrzten

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](http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100330190) (<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100330190>). 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](http://www.amazon.com/Politics-Power-Maghreb-Algeria-Independence/dp/0199368201) (<http://www.amazon.com/Politics-Power-Maghreb-Algeria-Independence/dp/0199368201>) (1 edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Quizzes	10%
Weekly Reading Responses (posted to course blog)	40%
Research paper/Homestay Reflections (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](http://www.alakawayn.edu) (<http://aui.ma/>) IN IFRANE FOR THREE WEEKS

Sa 6/29 ARRIVAL AND SETTLE INTO ROOMS AT AL AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Su 6/30 Orientation to Ifrane and AUI 2:30pm

WEEK 1: Panoramic Views of North African History

M 7/1 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)

T 7/2 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 7/3 **DAY TRIP (Meet at 8:15 at Front Bus Shelter)**: Volubulis (Roman city), Moulay Idriss Zerhoun (shrine-city for oldest Moroccan Muslim saint), lunch in Imperial Meknes, Palace of Moulay Idriss

Th 6/4 Varieties of Islamic State Formation in North Africa (11:30-1PM)

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

- Wyrzten, Chapter 1

15:00 SPECIAL TOPIC SESSION: Migration and Race in the Maghrib (Meeting with Leslie Gross Wyrzten and Karen Smith)

- Pinos, Jaume. (Working Paper). '[Building Fortress Europe? Schengen and the Cases of Ceuta and Melilla](#)'
- "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> (<https://www.mei.edu/content/map/moroccos-triple-role-euro-african-migration-system>).
- Medecins Sans Frontiers. 2013. "[Violence, Vulnerability and Migration: Trapped at the Gates of Europe](#) (https://classesv2.yale.edu/access/content/group/afsts325_su16/Readings/MSF_migrants_in_morocco_report.pdf).

F 7/5 -Su 7/7 **SAHARA WEEKEND TRIP:** [Tafilelt Oasis](http://maisondhotessahara.com/) (<http://maisondhotessahara.com/>), [Sijilmasa, Alawite Governor's Palace, and Merzouga Dunes](http://www.aubergedusud.com/desert-tents-morocco/) (<http://www.aubergedusud.com/desert-tents-morocco/>)

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. (Full text is available if you want through Yale VPN) <https://muse.jhu.edu/books/9780292766662> (<https://muse.jhu.edu/books/9780292766662>) (<https://muse.jhu.edu/books/9780292766662>) "[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 7/8 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 7/9 **DAY TRIP:** [Zaouia Ifrane hike](https://www.journeybeyondtravel.com/blog/zaouia-difrane-morocco.html) (<https://www.journeybeyondtravel.com/blog/zaouia-difrane-morocco.html>) in Middle Atlas, Azrou, see [Barbary monkeys](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbary_macaque) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbary_macaque)
Meet at 8:15AM at Bus Shelter

W 7/10 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.

QUIZ – Maghrib Map ([Morocco](#)

(https://classesv2.yale.edu/access/content/group/afsts325_su16/Maps/Morocco%20Geography.png) and [North Africa](#) (https://classesv2.yale.edu/access/content/group/afsts325_su16/Maps/North%20Africa%20Map.png.)

15:00 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)

Th 7/11 Anti-Colonial Nationalism and Decolonization

- Wyrzten, Chapter 8-9
- Watch *Battle of Algiers*

Fri 7/12-7/14 Free Long Weekend

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

M 7/15 Post-Colonial State Formation and Modes of Opposition (Islamist, Berber, Feminist)

- Willis, Chapter 2, 4-5

T 7/16 Intra-Maghrib and International Relations (The Western Sahara issue, Algerian Civil War, Maghrib Union, European Union) *Guest speakers, Michael Wills (Oxford University) and Nizar Messari (AUI)

- Willis, Chapters 8-9

W 7/17 Family Codes, Gender, and Legal Reform

- Wyrzten, Chapter 7
- Žvan-Elliot, Katja. 2015. *Modernizing Patriarchy: The Politics of Women's Rights in Morocco*. First edition. Austin: University of Texas Press. ([Chapter 4](#) ▾ ; [Chapter 5](#) ▾)
- The Moroccan Family Code (*Moudawana*) of February 5, 2004. Available at <http://www.hrea.org/moudawana.html> (<http://www.hrea.org/moudawana.html>). (Just for reference, so you can see it)

Th 7/18 **DAY TRIP: Historic Fez Medina (meet at 8:30 at Bus Shelter)**

FREE LONG WEEKEND Fri 7/19-Su 7/21

WEEK 4: Religion, Ethnicity, and Race in the Maghrib

M 7/22 – Religion

- Wyrzten, Chapter 6, Negotiating Morocco's Jewish Question
- Geertz, Clifford. *Islam Observed*, "[Chapter 3: The Scripturalist Interlude](#)," pp. 56-89.

OPTIONAL:

- Cornell, Vincent, (1998.) [Realm of the Saint](#), pp. 155-195.

*Complete check out form for AUI

ESSAOUIRA-MARRAKESH TRIP: *Imperial Port of Essaouira, Imperial City of Marrakesh*

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

Drive to Essaouira and Check-in to [Riad Terrasses d'Essaouira](http://www.les-terrasses-essaouira.com/) [\(http://www.les-terrasses-essaouira.com/\)](http://www.les-terrasses-essaouira.com/)

W 7/24 - Free day in Essaouira

Th 7/25 Essaouira to Marrakesh: drive to Marrakesh, check-in to [hotel](https://www.essaadi.com/) [\(https://www.essaadi.com/\)](https://www.essaadi.com/), afternoon pool-time, evening tour of Jmaa el-Fna in medina

- Gottreich, Emily. 2007. [Chapter 3](#) and [Chapter 4](#). *The Mellah of Marrakesh*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

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

Drive to Rabat, arrive ca. 2-3PM, Homestay orientation and meet homestay families at [CCCL \(Center for Cross-Cultural Learning\)](http://www.cccl.ma/) [\(http://www.cccl.ma/\)](http://www.cccl.ma/)

Sa 7/27 – Su 7/28 **FREE WEEKEND SETTLING INTO RABAT**

WEEK 5: The Maghrib in the 21st Century (cont)

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

M 7/29 Getting to Know Rabat: Pre-Colonial, Colonial, Post-Colonial, and Global City

Tour of Rabat Medina and Oudayas Casbah

T 7/30 DAY TRIP: Casablanca

Departure to Casa from CCCL

Meeting with NGO - Bayti (Works with street children)

Tour of Hassan II Mosque

Lunch at [Morocco Mall](http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/28/184959.html) [_\(http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/28/184959.html\)_](http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/12/28/184959.html)

Tour of downtown Casablanca guided by [Casamemoire](http://www.casamemoire.org/) [_\(http://www.casamemoire.org/\)_](http://www.casamemoire.org/)

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

W 7/31 . The Arab Spring and its Aftermath - Prospects for democratization and political pluralism across North Africa

Class meets at CCCL at 10-12, then lunch at 12pm noon

- (2011) *Reflections from Morocco on the Arab Spring*, Trajectories, Spring 2011, Vol. 22, No.2. [Download Article >> \[_\\(http://www.yale.edu/sociology/publications/faculty/wyrtzen/Trajectories_Spring_2011_Vol22_no2.pdf\\)_\]\(http://www.yale.edu/sociology/publications/faculty/wyrtzen/Trajectories_Spring_2011_Vol22_no2.pdf\)](http://www.yale.edu/sociology/publications/faculty/wyrtzen/Trajectories_Spring_2011_Vol22_no2.pdf).
- Cofman Wittes. "[Learning to Live With the Islamist Winter](http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/07/19/learning-to-live-with-the-islamist-winter/)" [_\(http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/07/19/learning-to-live-with-the-islamist-winter/\)_](http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/07/19/learning-to-live-with-the-islamist-winter/)." *Foreign Policy*. 19 July 2012
- Country descriptions on this BBC site: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-12482309> [_\(http://www.bbc.com/news/world-12482309\)](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-12482309)

* Afternoon discussion with Moroccan Students

Th 8/1 Energy, Environment, Security, and Berber Mobilization

- Silverstein, Paul. "[The Local Dimensions of Transnational Berberism: Racial Politics, Land Rights, and Cultural Activism in Southeastern Morocco](#)," in Hoffman and Miller (eds) *Berbers and Others*, Pp 83-102.
- Hoffman, Katherine. "[Internal Fractures in the Berber-Arab Distinction: From Colonial Practice to Post-National Preoccupations](#)." In *Berbers and Others*, Pp. 39-62.

F 8/2 Wrap Up Discussion








- Wyrtzen, Conclusion

FRIDAY NIGHT: Farewell Dinner 7:15 PM MEET AT CCCL for dinner at [Riad Kalaa](http://www.riadkalaa.com/Restaurant)
(<http://www.riadkalaa.com/Restaurant>)

FINAL PAPER DUE: In Drop-Box at 5pm 8/2

Sa 8/3 Depart (Fly out from Rabat, Casablanca, Fez airports)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Tue Jul 9, 2019	 Weekly Reading Response #1 (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104350)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jul 16, 2019	 Weekly Reading Response #2 (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104351)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jul 23, 2019	 Weekly Reading Response #3 (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104352)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 28, 2019	 Weekly Reading Response #4 (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104353)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Aug 3, 2019	 Final Paper (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104348)	due by 11:59pm
	 Attendance and Participation (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104347)	
	 Map Quiz (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104349)	