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)
Instructor: Jonathan Wyrtzen
Email: jonathan.wyrtzen@yale.edu
Phone: Whatsapp: +12034108819

Teaching Fellow: Zineb Rachdi El Yacoubi
Email: zinebrachdi@gmail.com

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:

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

**WEEK 1: Panoramic Views of North African History**


- Naylor, Philp. 2009. *North Africa: a history from antiquity to the present.* Austin: University of Texas. [Introduction]
- Wyrten, 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)

- Wyrtzen, Chapter 1

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

F 7/8 - Su 7/10  SAHARA WEEKEND TRIP: *Tafilet Oasis, Sijilmasa, Alawite Governor's Palace, and Merzouga Dunes*

Background Reading:


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WEEK 2: Legacies of Colonialism and Nationalism

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

- Wyrtzen, 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

- Wyrtzen, 3-5

Optional readings:


- 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

- Wyrtz en, Chapter 8-9
- Watch *Battle of Algiers*

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

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

- Medecins Sans Frontieres. 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

- Wyrtzen, Chapter 7
- WATCH: Media Representation in Morocco (and backstory)


[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

- Wyrtzen, Chapter 6, Negotiating Morocco's Jewish Question

*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
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)


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


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

https://doi.org/10.1080/01436590802386435.


* Lunch and Afternoon discussion with Moroccan University Students

F 8/5 Wrap Up Discussion

- Wyrtzen, 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)