

****DRAFT ****

Society and Politics of North Africa

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

Yale University

Summer Session A 2018

June 2–July 7

Instructor: Jonathan Wyrzten

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 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*. 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* (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](#) IN IFRANE FOR THREE WEEKS

WEEK 1: Panoramic Views of North African History

SATURDAY 6/2 ARRIVAL AND SETTLE INTO ROOMS AT AL AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Su 6/3 Orientation to Ifrane and AUI 3pm
 Welcome Dinner 7pm pickup

M 6/4 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

T 6/5 **DAY TRIP (Meet at 8:00 at Bus Shelter):** Volubulis (Roman city), Moulay Idriss Zerhoun (shrine-city for oldest Moroccan Muslim saint), Tomb of Sidi Ali Hamdouch, lunch in Imperial Meknes

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

W 6/6 Varieties of Islamic State Formation (B4 R3 9-11:30 AM)

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

Th 6/7 -Sa 6/9 **SAHARA WEEKEND TRIP:** *Tafilelt Oasis, Sijilmasa, Alawite Palace, and Merzouga Dunes*

(Leaving 9:00am Friday from AUI rond-point, returning Saturday late afternoon)

Su 7/10 - **Free**

WEEK 2: Legacies of Colonialism and Nationalism

M 6/11 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

T 6/12 Meeting with Karen Smith about Sub–Saharan Migration

- Pinos, Jaume. (Working Paper). '[Building Fortress Europe? Schengen and the Cases of Ceuta and Melilla](#)'
- Mountz, Alison. 2011. "[Where asylum–seekers wait: feminist countertopographies of sites between states](#)," *Gender, Place & Culture*, 18:3, 381–399.
- Medecins Sans Frontiers. 2013. "[Violence, Vulnerability and Migration: Trapped at the Gates of Europe](#)."

6:30–8:30 PM – Field trip to Tarmilat community and women's textile cooperative (meet at bus shelter)

W 6/13 Colonial Ethnography, Urban Planning, and Resistance Movements

- 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.
- Wyrzten, 3–5

QUIZ – Maghrib Map ([Morocco](#) and [North Africa](#))

Th 6/14 DAY TRIP: Historic Fez Medina (meet at 8:30 at Bus Shelter)

Fri 6/15 Free Day for Travel

WEEKEND FREE Sa–Su 7/16–7/17

WEEK 3: Post–Colonial Political Systems and Opposition Groups

Class meets in B4 Rm 3 from 10–12:00

M 6/18 Anti–Colonial Nationalism, Decolonization, and Post–Colonial State Formation

- Wyrzten, Chapter 8–9
- Willis, Chapter 2

T 6/19 DAY TRIP: Oum Rbia spring and waterfall in Middle Atlas Meet at 8:00AM at Bus Shelter

W 6/20 Varieties of Opposition: Islamist and Berber Mobilization

- Willis, Chapter 4–5
Intra–Maghrib and International Relations (Western Sahara, Algerian Civil War, Maghrib Union, European Union)
 - Willis, Chapters 8–9

****COMPLETE AUI CHECKOUT FORMS BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR TRIP: RETURN PAPERWORK TO OIP OFFICE****

FREE LONG WEEKEND FOR MOROCCO TRAVEL

Th 6/21 FREE DAY FOR TRAVEL

F 6/22 FREE DAY FOR TRAVEL

FREE LONG WEEKEND Sa 6/23- Su 7/24

WEEK 4: MARRAKESH, HIGH ATLAS, ESSAOUIRA

M-W 6/25-27 MARRAKESH WEEKEND TRIP: *Imperial City of Marrakesh, Coastal city of Essaouira*

Monday morning departure from Building 38 at 9:00AM (drop keys off at B38 gate and board bus)

M 6/25 – Drive to Marrakesh, check-in to hotel, evening tour of Marrakesh Medina

Readings:

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

T 6/26 – Drive to Essaouira and check in to Ryad Watier

Wyrzten, Chapter 6, Negotiating Morocco's Jewish Question

W 6/27 – Free day in Essaouira

Th 6/28 – Depart Essaouira at 9AM

Arrive in Rabat ca. 5-6PM, Homestay orientation and meet homestay families at [CCCL \(Center for Cross-Cultural Learning\)](#)

F 6/29 – The Arab Spring – Prospects for democratization and political pluralism across North Africa

Class meets at CCCL at 12pm noon for lunch, then class from 1-3PM

- Wyrzten. (2011) *Reflections from Morocco on the Arab Spring*, Trajectories, Spring 2011, Vol. 22, No.2. [Download Article >>](#).
- Cofman Wittes. "[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>

RABAT TOUR IN EVENING

Sa-Su 6/30-7/1 FREE WEEKEND

[WEEK 5 BASED AT CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING IN RABAT]

WEEK 5: The Maghrib in the 21st Century

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

M 7/2 Discussion with Issandr El Amrani, International Crisis Group

T 7/3 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](#)

Tour of downtown Casablanca guided by [Casamemoire](#)

Background reading:

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

W 7/4 Family Codes, Gender, and Legal Reform

- Wyrzten, Chapter 7
- Sadiqi, Fatima. 2008. "[Women in Post-Colonial and Today's Maghrib](#)." *African and Asian Studies*, 7:447–470.
- The [Moroccan Family Code \(Moudawana\)](#) of February 5, 2004. Available at <http://www.hrea.org/moudawana.html> (Skim to check it out)
- Heidi Bosch-Harod. "Uncertainty for the Future of Morocco's Women's Movement," *OpenDemocracy.Net*, 1 March 2012.
- Moroccan teenager's death puts focus on women's rights. (2012, April 3). *The Guardian*. Retrieved June 11, 2012, from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/03/moroccan-teenager-death-women-rights>

Th 7/5 Islam in the Maghrib

- Crapanzano, V. (1973). *The Hamadsha: a study in Moroccan ethnopsychiatry*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. xi–56
- Geertz, Clifford. *Islam Observed*, "[Chapter 3: The Scripturalist Interlude](#)," pp. 56–89.

OPTIONAL:

- Cornell, Vincent, (1998.) *Realm of the Saint*. pp. 155–195.

F 7/6 Wrap Up Discussion

- Wyrzten, Conclusion

FRIDAY NIGHT: Farewell Dinner 7:15 PM MEET AT CCCL

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

Sa 7/7 Depart (Fly out from Rabat or Casablanca airports)