Course Syllabus

***** 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 39 - August 3
Instructor: Jonathan Wyrtzen
Building 8B Room 109, M-F 10:00-12:00 (Except field trip days)
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Phone: +212639186276
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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:


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://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**


- Wyrtzen, 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)

• Wyrtzen, Chapter 1

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

• Pinos, Jaume. (Working Paper). "Building Fortress Europe? Schengen and the Cases of Ceuta and Melilla' 
• 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: Tafilt Oasis (http://maisondhotessahara.com/), Sijilmasa, Alawite Governor's Palace, and Merzouga Dunes (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) "Prologue: Ibn Batutta’s Sijilmasa Journey

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

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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"
• Wyrtzen, Chapter 2

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


Meet at 8:15AM at Bus Shelter

W 7/10 Colonial Logics of Legibility/Legitimization and Local Resistance and Accommodation

• Wyrtzen, 3-5

Optional readings:


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 Tamilat community and women's textile cooperative (meet at bus shelter)

Th 7/11 Anti-Colonial Nationalism and Decolonization

• Wytzen, Chapter 8-9
• Watch Battle of Algiers

Fri 7/12-7/14 Free Long Weekend

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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

• Wytzen, 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 (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
- Wyrtzen, Chapter 6, Negotiating Morocco's Jewish Question
  OPTIONAL:

*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/]

W 7/24 - Free day in Essaouira

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

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/]

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)
   Tour of downtown Casablanca guided by Casamemoire (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
   * Afternoon discussion with Moroccan Students

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

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)

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

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

**Course Summary:**

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<th>Details</th>
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<td>Tue Jul 9, 2019</td>
<td><a href="https://yale.instructure.com/courses/47359/assignments/104350">Weekly Reading Response #1</a></td>
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