HI 595 (2019)

Morocco: History on the Cusp of Three Continents

Monday 2:30-5:15
ASC 505
Office Hours: M, 11:15-12:15, TR 1:45-2:45 & by appt.

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Explores the range and limits of social mixture – cultural, political, economic – as three civilizations met at the northwest corner of Africa and influenced one another from the 8th to the 21st centuries.

This reading seminar, open to both advanced undergraduate and graduate students, explores the history of the northwest African kingdom of Morocco. Because it is located on the cusp of three continents, the region has long been affected by developments elsewhere. Through focusing on Morocco, we will learn about its people’s historical interactions with Europe (especially colonization by and emigration to and from Spain and France), the Middle East (from where Muslim invaders came in the 8th and 12th centuries), and the rest of Africa (through trade across the Sahara).

Most of our reading will be in the form of monographs, but there are a few comprehensive histories in English that students may wish to purchase or consult because they provide useful background. One example is Jamil-Abun Nasr, A History of the Maghrib in the Muslim Period. The Journal of North African Studies may be found on the 6th floor of Mugar Library; its call number is DT 160 J68. I intend to give a mini-lecture at the end of each class to introduce you to the material of the following week.

Seven titles by the following authors may be purchased: Ibn Khaldun (The Muqaddimah), Maria Menocal (Ornament of the World), Natalie Z. Davis (Trickster Travels), Aomar Boum (Memories of Absence), S.G. Miller (A History of Modern Morocco), Mohamed Choukri (By Bread Alone), Fatima Mernissi (Dreams of Trespass). The books by Miller and el Hamel (Black Morocco) are available online at Mugar. All our required readings are on 2-hour reserve in Mugar library (or on Blackboard if they are articles). Changes may be made to the syllabus from time to time. (Supplementary readings are optional and may be used for the Third Hour presentations.)

We have the good fortune to be seeing three Moroccan films on selected evenings. They will be shown before we meet to discuss a book that is relevant to their subject matter. In this way, I hope you’ll gain greater visceral familiarity with the Maghreb, its languages and landscapes. One evening we will dine together on Moroccan cuisine.

Evaluation Criteria
The forms of evaluation in this seminar will emphasize writing in two forms. The first will be weekly one-page précis statements that describe the central argument and evidence in the week’s reading, as well as raise a provocative issue for discussion (30%).
The second writing exercise will be a **15 page bibliographic essay** that surveys the literature on a particular theme (40%), due **26 April**. In addition, students will take part in weekly seminars as active, dynamic participants in discussions. At least once over the course of the semester students will serve as **discussion leaders during The Third Hour**, framing questions, and helping to organize the seminar agenda for that week. Seminar participation will constitute 30% of the grade for the course.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to observe the procedures and guidelines regarding plagiarism and academic integrity prescribed by the Arts and Sciences Academic Conduct Code. Those guidelines are provided on the following websites:

- [http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/](http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/)
- [http://www.bu.edu/grs/academics/resources/adp.html](http://www.bu.edu/grs/academics/resources/adp.html)

1. **Jan. 28 Introduction: The Historical Grid, a broad overview**

   **THE MIDDLE AGES**

2. **Feb. 4 A Muslim Perspective**


3. **Feb. 11 A European Perspective**

   Maria Rosa Menocal, *The Ornament of the World, How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Muslim Spain* (omitting the five chapters on the following pages: pp.101-29, 147-88, 216-28);


4. **Feb. 19 An African Perspective**
Chouki el Hamel, *Black Morocco, a history of slavery, race, and Islam*, chapters 3 to 6 (pp. 1-240)


**THE EARLY MODERN WORLD**

5. **Feb. 25** The Aftermath of the Expulsion from Spain: Through the eyes of Leo Africanus

Natalie Zemon Davis, *Trickster Travels: a Sixteenth Century Muslim between Worlds*, chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9.


6. **March 4** Piracy and its aftermath


Supplementary reading: Nabil Mattar, *Britain and Barbary 1589-1689*; Linda Colley, *Captives, the story of Britain’s pursuit of empire and how its soldiers and civilians were held captive by the dream of global supremacy 1600-1850*, Part One (pp. 23-134); Charles Hanford Adams, *The Narrative of Robert Adams, A Barbary Captive*; Paul Baepler, *White Slaves, African Masters*.

**THE COLONIAL ENCOUNTER**

7. **March 18** The Coming of the French and the Spanish

Susan G. Miller, *The History of Modern Morocco*, chapters 3, 4, 5; el Hamel, chapter 7

Film: “Where are you going, Moshe?” (Hassan Benjelloun, 2007)

8. March 25 The Jewish Presence

Aomar Boum, Memories of Absence, How Muslims remember Jews in Morocco


Film: “Horses of God” (Nabil Ayouch, 2012, 115 mins.)

9. April 1 Life in Modern Cities

Mohamed Choukri, For Bread Alone; Fatima Mernissi, Dreams of Trespass


INDEPENDENCE

10. April 8 A Powerful King and Domestic Dissent

Susan Miller, chapters 6 and 7; Susan Slyomovics, The Performance of Human Rights in Morocco, chapters 4 and 6

Supplementary reading: R. Bourqia and S. Miller, In the Shadow of the Sultan, Culture, Power and Politics in Morocco; Henry Munson, Religion and Power in Morocco;

11. April 17 Berber Culture and Nationalism

Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, The Berber Identity Movement and the Challenge to North African States, selected chapters (3,4,6)


Film: “Le Grand Voyage” (2004, 108 mins.)

12. April 22 Islams: Intégrisme/Political Islam and Sufism

Henry Munson, The House of Si Abd Allah, selections from; S.G. Miller, chapters 8 and 9. Excerpt from the Mudawanna (Xerox).


13. April 29 Presentation and Submission of papers