

**Security Studies and Foreign Policy:  
Europe and the MENA (Middle East and North Africa)**

**Course Instructor: Dr. Saloua Zerhouni**

*\*Please note that the full course syllabus is currently under development.*

**Course Objectives**

This course will look at the interrelated issues between security, immigration and foreign policy in the Euro-Mediterranean region with a specific focus on the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) relations with Europe. We will look more specifically at Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia but will also take into consideration security issues as they relate to Egypt and Libya.

The course is based on the assumption that security issues are multidimensional and that North African states face a range of security challenges that affect their stability and interactions at the sub-regional and regional Euro-Mediterranean level. This ultimately means that threats to national and regional stability in North Africa are strongly connected to economic, political and social crises such as authoritarianism, class division, poverty, immigration, unemployment, immigration and the unequal distribution of resources, which make the region and its people vulnerable to social problems and instability.

This course will examine, for example, the ways in which political factors can also undermine security in the region, particularly through the challenges of identity politics facing the nation-state and what gradually appears to be the crisis of authoritarian rule after the fall of the regimes in Egypt and Tunisia. This course will attempt to answer questions such as, to what extent was authoritarianism a factor of instability? How did it hinder growth toward more “civil states” based on citizenship, participation, and equality? These issues go beyond the borders of North African states and clearly affect their relationships with neighboring countries and Europe.

From another angle, this course will look at how in the context of limited economic opportunities and the international pressures exercised by the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for the liberalization of the economy, there is rising concern for social issues and for the potential that communities will become more susceptible to radicalizing ideologies. We will therefore attempt to look at how North African countries can become an attractive space for international terrorist organizations. These trends are increasingly apparent across the Sahel, making it a pivotal geographic zone in the global security landscape. We will also deal with the ways in which human, weapon, drug, and money trafficking can create an important threat to the stability of the region. Illegal immigration from North

and sub-Saharan Africa to Europe raises important issues to be analyzed in this class. The course will constantly present the argument that the socio-economic and ideological underpinnings of security clearly underscore the need for sustained political, economic, and social solutions. The course will also explore the question of how human development issues affect stability.