



PO 341 – NORTH AFRICAN POLITICS
IES Abroad Rabat

DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the politics and intra-regional relations of the Maghreb states: Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. It will focus on post-independence state building, the role of political parties, the rise of Islamism, the rise of identity politics, the role of civil society actors as well as the changing faces of authoritarianism in the region. It will also look at inter-state politics and the impact of the Western Sahara conflict on regional relations and cooperation.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, discussions, student presentations

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Presentations - 30%
- Midterm Exam - 25%
- Final Exam - 25%
- Final Term Paper - 20%

Student Presentations

All students are invited to review and present at least one reference from the mandatory reading list related to the course topics during the semester. The reviews should include a summary of an article or chapter of a book and its main arguments and situate it in the literature covering international phenomena related to the U.S., North African politics, and their relations.

Midterm and Final Exam

There will be two exams during the semester with a grade value of 25% each of the overall grade (50% total).

Final Paper

Students will also complete a term paper graded at 20% of the overall grade and based on a topic approved by the instructor. Students should discuss their topics with the instructor beforehand. A description in approximately 100 words is required.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand in depth the political regimes in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia,
- Discuss the obstacles to regime change in the region,
- Understand the similarities and specificities of the region's politics,
- Compare common themes with politics in the Middle East such as the rise of Islam.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance is mandatory in accordance with the IES Rabat attendance policy in the Student Handbook.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 1	Post-Independence State Building in North Africa • Introduction to the course (defining and presenting approaches and concepts) • Syllabus overview • Introduction to the history of the region	
Session 2	Post-Independence State Building in North Africa	• Micheal J. Willis. "The Imprint of History". Politics and Power in the Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco from Independence to the Arab Spring. Hurst and Company, London, 2012. 9-36. • Micheal J. Willis. "Post-Independence State Building". Politics and Power in the Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco from Independence to the Arab Spring. Hurst and Company, London, 2012. 37-79.
Session 3	Post-Independence State Building in North Africa	• John Ruedy, Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992. • Azzedine Layachi, Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
Session 4	Post-Independence State Building in North Africa	• William Eagleton, The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Middle East Journal, Vol. 19, Winter 1965, pp: 45-53. • Hella Pick, Independent Mauritania, the World Today, Vol. 17, N° 4, pp: 145-153.
Session 5	The Role of Political Parties in the MENA	• Frank Tachau (editor), Political Parties of the Middle East and North Africa, London: Mansell 1994. • Clement Henry Moore, 'Political Parties' in I. William Zartman and William Mark Habib (Editors), Polity and Society in Contemporary North Africa (Boulder: Westview, 1993). • Michael J. Willis, 'Political Parties in the Maghreb: Ideology and Identification: A Suggested Typology', the Journal of North African Studies (Volume 7, Number 3, 2002).
Session 6	NO CLASS • Chef and Tangier tirp	

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 7	The Role of Political Parties in MENA	- Nicole Bolleyera & Lise Storm, "Problems of Party Assistance in Hybrid Regimes: the case of Morocco", Democratization, 2010. - Assessment Report, "The September 2015 Municipal Elections in Morocco: The Performance of the Justice and Development Party". - Driss Jandari, The Political Party Experience in Morocco: Obscurity and Obfuscation". 2012. - Marsha Pripstein Posusney, "Multi-Party Elections in the Arab World: Institutional Engineering and Oppositional Strategies". 2002.
Session 8	The Role of Political Parties in MENA	- Shadi Hamid "Political party development before and after the Arab Spring", available online at: https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Beyond-the-Arab-Spring.pdf - Raymond A. Hinnebusch (2017) Political parties in MENA: their functions and development, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, 44:2, 159-175, DOI: 10.1080/13530194.2017.1281577
Session 9	The Rise of Islam in the Maghreb	- Azzedine Layachi, "Islam and Politics in North Africa", The Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics. John L. Esposito and Emad El-Din Shahin, (eds.) - Malika Zeghal, Islamism in Morocco: Religion, Authoritarianism, and Electoral Politics, Markus Wiener Publishers, Princeton, Princeton Publications. - Adel Abdel Ghafar & Bill Hess "Islamist Parties in North Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt", Brookings Doha Center Analysis Paper, 2018.

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 10	The Rise of Islam in the Maghreb	F. Cavatorta, "Civil Society Islamism and Democratization: The Case of Morocco", Journal of Modern African Studies, 2006. - BernaTuram, "The Politics of Engagement Between Islam and the Secular State: Ambivalences of 'Civil Society'". 2004. - Shadi Hamid, William McCants, and Rashid Dar, "Islamism after the Arab Spring: Between the Islamic State and the nation-state", The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic WorldU.S.-Islamic World Forum Papers 2015January 2017
Session 11	Midterm Review session	
Session 12	Midterm Midterm Exam	
Session 13	NO CLASS Midterm break	
Session 14	Amazigh Identity in the Maghreb	- David Crawford, 'Morocco's Invisible Imazighen' The Journal of North African Studies (Volume 7, Number 1, Spring 2002). - AzzedineLayachi, 'The Berbers in Algeria: politicized Ethnicity and Ethnicized Politics' in Maya Shatzmiller (Editor), Nationalism and Minority Identities in Islamic Societies, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, 2005
Session 15	Research paper selection and discussion	

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 16	Political Openings and Regime Maintenance	- Volker Perthes, "Politics and Elite Change in the Arab World," In Volker Perthes (ed.), Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change, Boulder: Lynne Rienner 2004. - Andrew R. Smith and Fadoua Loudiyi, Testing the Red Line: On the Liberalization of Speech in Morocco, Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. N° 27 (Aug., 2005), pp: 1069-1119.
Session 17	Political Openings and Regime Maintenance	- Abdeslam Maghraoui, "Democratization the in Arab World: Depoliticization in Morocco," Journal of Democracy (13, 2002 (4): 24–32). - Bruce-Maddy Weitzman, Women, Islam and the Moroccan State: The Struggle over the personal status Laws, Middle East Journal, Vol. 59, N° 3, pp: 393-410.
Session 18	Regional relations, Africa and Sahel, Sahara, Mediterranean Area and the Middle East	- Zaki Laïdi, Stability and Partnership in the Maghreb, Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Vol., 481 (September 1985), pp: 127-137. - Yahia H. Zoubir, Western Sahara Conflict: Regional and International Dimensions, the Journal of Modern African Studies, Vol. 28, N° 2, (June 1990) pp: 225-243.
Session 19	Class Trip Visit to the HQ of a political party (depending on availability)	
Session 20	Youth and Politics in the Maghreb	- Lina Khatib. Social Media and Mobilization in the Arab Spring and Beyond. North African Politics: Change and Continuity. Yahia Zoubir and Gregory White (eds). 2016. 114-127. - Salih, Ruba, Lynn Welchman and Elena Zambelli (2017), "Gender, Intersectionality and Youth Civic and Political Engagement. An Analysis of the Meso-Level Factors of Youth Exclusion/ Inclusion in the South and East Mediterranean (SEM Region", in Power2Youth Working Papers, No. 24 (February), http://www.iai.it/en/node/7276.

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 21	North Africa's Arab Spring	• Lisa Anderson, "Demystifying the Arab Spring Parsing the Differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya," Hein Online - 90 Foreign Affairs 2 2011, pp.1-7. • Marion Dixon, An Arab Spring, Review of African Political Economy, 38:128, pp: 309-316. • Alfred Hermida, Sourcing the Arab Spring, April 2012. • International Group Crisis, Popular Protest in North Africa and Middle East, Making sense of Libya, Report N° 207, June 2011.
Session 22	Class Trip • 2nd field trip to the Parliament or an NGO HQ	
Session 23	Morocco's Arab Spring	• Natacha Danon, The Resilience of the Moroccan Monarchy during the Arab Spring: Clientelism, Co-optation, and Constitutional Reform. 2014. • Matt Buehler, "Safety-Valve Elections and the Arab Spring: The Weakening (and Resurgence) of Morocco's Islamist Opposition Party".
Session 24	Morocco's Arab Spring	• Mohsine El Ahmadi and Aziz Radi: Morocco's February 20th Movement: Has This Protest Movement Petered Out" in Mohsine El Ahmadi and Stuart Schaar (eds), Birth of the Arab Citizen and the Changing Middle East. Northampton, MA: Interlink Publishing, March 2014. • Taieb Belghazi & Abdelhay Moudden, "Ihbat: disillusionment and the Arab Spring in Morocco". 2015.
Session 25	Finals • Final review session	
Session 26	Finals • Final exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Headquarters of a political party (subject to availability)
- Parliament visit

REQUIRED READINGS:

- John Ruedy, *Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992
- Clement Henry Moore, *Tunisia since Independence: The Dynamics of One-Party Government* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1965),
- Frank Tachau (editor), *Political Parties of the Middle East and North Africa*, London: Mansell 1994.
- Clement Henry Moore, 'Political Parties' in I. William Zartman and William Mark Habeeb (Editors), *Polity and Society in Contemporary North Africa* (Boulder: Westview, 1993).
- Michael J. Willis, 'Political Parties in the Maghreb: Ideology and Identification: A Suggested Typology', *The Journal of North African Studies* (Volume 7, Number 3, 2002).
- Rkia El-Mossadeq, 'Political Parties and Power Sharing' in I. William Zartman (Editor), *The Political Economy of Morocco* (Praeger, New York, 1987).
- Milbrath, Lester W. *Political Participation: How and Why Do People Get Involved in Politics?* Chicago: Rand McNally, 1971.
- Ellen Lust-Okar, and Zerhouni Saloua, *Political Participation in the Middle East*, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner 2008).
- Schwedler, Jillian, and Laryssa Chomiak. "And the Winner Is . . . Authoritarian Elections in the Arab World," *Middle East Report*, (2006 (238): 12–19).
- Michael Bonner, Megan Reif, Mark Tessler (Editors). *Islam, Democracy and the State in Algeria*, Routledge Curzon, London, 2005
- I.W. Zartman (Editor), *Political Elites in Arab North Africa*. Longman, New York, 1982.
- Rkia El-Mossadeq, 'Political Parties and Power Sharing' in I. William Zartman (Editor), *The Political Economy of Morocco* (Praeger, New York, 1987).
- Michael J. Willis, 'Political Parties in the Maghreb: The Illusion of Significance?' *The Journal of North African Studies*, Volume 7, Number 2, 2002
- Michael Collins Dunn, 'The An-Nahda Movement in Tunisia: From Renaissance to Revolution' in John Ruedy (ed.), *Islamism and Secularism in North Africa* (London: MacMillan, 1994)
- David Crawford, 'Morocco's Invisible Imazighen' *The Journal of North African Studies* (Volume 7, Number 1, Spring 2002).
- Azzedine Layachi, 'The Berbers in Algeria: politicized Ethnicity and Ethnicized Politics' in Maya Shatzmiller (Editor), *Nationalism and Minority Identities in Islamic Societies*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, 2005
- Azzedine Layachi, *State, Society and Democracy in Morocco: The Limits of Associative Life*, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, 1998
- Driss Maghraoui, "The Dynamics of Civil Society in Morocco", in Ellen Lust-Okar, and Zerhouni Saloua,
- *Political Participation in the Middle East*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner 2008
- Volker Perthes, "Politics and Elite Change in the Arab World," In Volker Perthes (ed.), *Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner 2004
- Abdeslam Maghraoui, "Democratization in the Arab World: Depoliticization in Morocco," *Journal of Democracy* (13, 2002 (4): 24–32).