IR/PO 383 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ARAB-WESTERN INTERSECTIONS  
IES Abroad Granada & Rabat – Multi-Location: Granada-Rabat: Europe & the Muslim World

DESCRIPTION:
The course is divided in two main parts, to be covered in Rabat and Granada. The first part in Rabat examines the politics and intra-regional relations of the Maghreb states, focusing on post-independence state building, the role of political parties, the rise of Islamism, the role of civil society actors and the changing faces of authoritarianism in the region. The second part focuses on the history and features of European integration, the political system of the European Union, its economic and public policies, as well as political parties and public opinion, seeing the EU both as a domestic and as a global actor, with a particular emphasis on Mediterranean policies.

Students will become familiar with Arab-Western shared history and the contemporary polity, politics, policy-making and policies of the European Union towards the neighboring Maghreb countries, as well as its current major challenges: Euro-crisis, Euroscepticism and xenophobia, migration pressures and security and cooperation policies.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Rachid Touhtou & Dr. Rafael Vázquez

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
The class will follow a seminar format, and includes lectures by the instructors, supported by readings and other materials, and open discussion and inquiry. Both the presentations and the discussions are expected to be respectful, professional and anchored in the class materials.

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

- Understand in depth the political regimes in Maghreb countries, and discuss the obstacles to regime change in the region
- Compare common themes between Maghreb and Middle Eastern politics, such as the rise of Islamism.
- Interpret the chapters of the common history of interactions between the Arab World and the West
- Demonstrate knowledge about the progression and operation of the European Union policies and institutions, particularly in its relationship with the Southern shore of the Mediterranean.
- Have a deeper understanding regarding diversity, stereotyping, and prejudice towards Muslims and Arabs in Western societies

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Student participation - 10%
- Written assignments - 30%
- In-class presentations - 20%
- Final exams (one in Rabat, one in Granada) - 40% (20% each)

Participation (10%). Students must actively participate in the discussions and to raise questions. North Africa countries and the European Union are dynamic political systems, so it is important to keep up with the news as part of our course. Being informed about current events will enhance the quality of our discussions as we will combine the academic reading materials with current news.
**Written assignments (30%).** Individual written assignments are 6 short analytical pieces, about 2-3 pages long, to be submitted at the end of weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12. The topic of each paper will be introduced by the instructors in class. Papers must apply concepts and theories from the course and offer a clear and coherent thesis, which will be supported by sound arguments and empirical evidence. They must address course readings and aspects relevant to the course, and demonstrate a solid understanding of the issues at stake. The papers must be solidly structured and the writing must meet the formal standards of academic publications, in terms of language as well as the use of bibliographic references.

**Student presentations (20%).** Students are expected to deliver 2 in-class presentations during the semester. These presentations should be concise (15-20 minutes), but the student is expected to demonstrate a solid understanding of the assigned topic, as well as good communication skills. Students should email their power point file to the instructor at least one day before the presentation at the latest.

**Final exams (40%).** There will be two in-class examinations which will cover the reading materials and lectures from weeks 1-6 in Rabat and 7-12 in Granada, but will also require that you express your own perspectives backed up with solid arguments.

**CONTENT:**

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<th>WEEKS</th>
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| Week 1 | Introduction: Concepts and Approaches  
Post-Independence State Building in North Africa | - Micheal J. Willis, Chapters 1 and 2 (2012) |
| Week 2 | Political Actors in North Africa | - Clement Henry Moore, (1993);  
- Yahya Zoubir |
| Weeks 3 & 4 | The Rise of Identity Politics in North Africa | - Azzedine Layachi  
- David Crawford  
- James Sater |
| Week 5 | Regional Relations and the Arab Spring | - Abdessalam Maghraoui  
- Yahya Zoubir |
| Week 6 | Student presentations and Exam | |
| Week 7 | West and East, North and South. A historical approach to Europe  
- The idea of Europe in History  
- Muslim background in Europe. Special reference to Spain and Granada  
- The History of European Integration and future prospects | - Berger, 2014  
- McCormick, 2014 (Chapter 2) |
| Week 8 | The Politics of the EU as a domestic actor  
- Introduction: A social, geographic, economic and political approach to the European Union  
- Government and institutional actors  
- Decision-making procedures | - McCormick, 2014 (Chapters 3 and 4) |
| Weeks 9 & 10 | European identity and the Arab World. A changing scene from recognition to rejection  
- The challenge for European Identity  
- Islam in Europe. Muslim communities | - Kumar, 2002  
- Tibi, 2002 |
in Europe: assimilation, coexistence and radicalism

**Student in-class presentations:** Far right political parties and Islamophobia (Refugees and immigration)

**Week 11**

**EU Policies and the Arab World**
- EU Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- Mediterranean policy of the UE. The EU and North Africa. Cooperation Programs and Trade commercial relations
- The difficulties for a common foreign policy. War and conflict (Syria, Lebanon, Palestina/Israel) Middle East Process

- UE website official documents (uploaded on Moodle by the instructor)

**Week 12**

Student presentations and Exam

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**
*Course textbooks*

**REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS - RABAT:**
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

**REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS - GRANADA:**
Bauman, Zygmunt. 2016. *Strangers at our doors*.

**INSTRUCTOR BIOS:**

**Dr. Rachid Touhtou** is an Associate Professor of Political Communication and Public Policies, and Head of the Social sciences Department in the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics in Rabat. He earned his Ph.D at both the Free University in Amsterdam and Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fez. He has held research fellowships at the University of Minnesota and at the University of Cambridge. Dr. Touhtou has researched and published extensively on topics such as civil society under the new Moroccan Constitution of 2011, gender codification in Moroccan Law, transitional justice, migration and cultures of mobility, the fragmentation of civil society after the Arab Spring, and youth and radicalization in Northern Morocco.

**Dr. Rafael Vázquez** is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Granada where he teaches courses on European Politics, Political Theory, and Gender Issues. He holds Ph.D. in Social Sciences and a M.A. in Public Opinion Studies. He has been a visiting lecturer and researcher in academic institutions in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland, Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Romania, Turkey, Norway, Sweden, and Portugal among other countries. His main research interests lie in the area of EU politics, comparative European politics, as well as political sociology of Europe. Some of his recent publications explore the role of economic factors and political identities as a determinant of support for European integration in the post-socialist European countries as well as the role played by civil society actors in EU politics and policies.