Morocco: Political and Social Development

PUAF 798T / PUAF 359T
3 Credits
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Course Description
Students will be exposed to Morocco and its important and unique role in North Africa, focusing on leadership to advance human rights, security, and development in a changing environment. In the admission process, preference will be given to graduate students in UMD Public Policy and undergraduates in Public Leadership and the Minor in International Development and Conflict Management.
Lectures by Moroccan scholars on the Arab Spring in Morocco, the role and practice of Islam in Moroccan society, the Amazigh (Berber) movements, the and efforts to democratize in the midst of concerns over extremism, and rights-based education. All lectures will be held at AmidEast (our partner organization in Morocco).

Survival Moroccan Arabic studied in the first week.

Living with host families to be fully immersed in Moroccan culture.

Field trips in Rabat to various NGOs, the Moroccan Parliament, the Royal Institute for Amazigh Studies, the Human Development Initiative, and the USAID office.
Weekend trips to Meknes, Fez, Casablanca, Marrakech, and a Berber village. This includes sightseeing (including important cultural landmarks such as the Hassan II Mosque) as well as additional NGO visits.

Visit to a rural Berber village (Toufstlt, Ain Leuh). The group will visit a rural elementary school in the foothills of the Middle Atlas Mountains to meet with teachers and school children and to see another side of life in Morocco, outside of the big city and away from the common tourist’s trail.
Group discussion sessions.

Through these interactions, students will learn and dialogue about important and current issues in Morocco, including poverty, democratization, security, and women's and minority rights. Students should come out of the course with a solid understanding of ethical issues and strategies in Morocco’s political, economic, and social development.

Course Grading

Participation (20%)
Personal Journals (30%)
Final Paper (50%)

1. **Personal Journals:** Must be written daily while in Morocco, no more than 100 words/day. Do it before retiring each night (you will forget much by the next day). Reflect on lectures, discussions, site visits, and other group or personal activities. You need only write about one topic, but can definitely discuss multiple topics. Here are some suggestions for critical reflection:

   a. Something that you learned, something that surprised you, and why. How has this experience affected you?
   b. New questions or problems you want to learn more about in Morocco.
   c. Substantive additions to the readings or your thoughts on the readings in the context of the day’s events.

The journal entries can include photos.

Due on Monday, January 20 (anytime), but feel free to submit when we leave Morocco. Typed journals can be emailed to Prof Afzal, and hard copies can be given to us on the last day in Morocco or in Prof Afzal’s mailbox.
Best entries to be posted on course website: we will ask you to select a couple of your favorite journal entries from the trip and we will post one entry from each of you on a public website for our course once we are back. We will also ask you to share a few of your favorite pictures which we will also post on the website.

2. **Participation:** Pose questions, share observations, formulate new insights, challenge and evaluate others’ views, mediate differences. Nonparticipation includes passive listening. Lateness to lectures, bus departures, or visits is unacceptable.

3. **Final Paper:** should be an analytical and critical paper on one/a few of the major theme(s) of the course, informed by research (primary and secondary), normative or ethical analysis, and your own Moroccan experience.

Due Monday, February 10 (anytime) via email.

Undergraduate papers: 10-12 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 point New Times Roman Font, 1” margins.
Graduate students’ papers: 20 pages typed, double-spaced, 12 point New Times Roman Font, 1” margins.

Examples of some final paper topics:

- A critical review of some of your readings.
- Critically analyze the mission and operation of an organization you visited while in Morocco.
- Further develop an issue relating to the general themes we addressed in the course, such as women’s rights and Moroccan development, security challenges, or the democratization process in Morocco.

**Reading List**

Some readings are available electronically and have links listed below. A few others are posted on the class website at [http://umdmorocco.wix.com/morocco2012#!syllabus-2014/c1ehf](http://umdmorocco.wix.com/morocco2012#!syllabus-2014/c1ehf). Finally, some readings are in books that should be purchased or borrowed from the library.

**Books Recommended for Purchase**

- A good tour guide on Morocco, such as the *Rough Guide to Morocco, Lonely Planet Morocco, Eyewitness Guide, Fodor’s Morocco.* You may also find useful, *Moroccan Arabic: Lonely Planet Phrasebook.*
REQUIRED READING: To be read before arrival in Morocco

Study Abroad – Ethical Issues and Challenges


Course Themes: “Human Rights, Security, and Development in Morocco: A Public Leadership Perspective”


The Arab World and the Arab Uprising

- Gelvin, James L., The Arab Uprisings: What Everyone Needs to Know (2012), Ch. 1, Ch.5 (119-35), Ch. 6 (155-58)

Morocco - General background/Data:
Familiarize yourself with at least one of these data collections on Morocco

- The World Bank:
  o Country Data Page: http://data.worldbank.org/country/morocco (Data)
- USAID Morocco page: http://www.usaid.gov/morocco (Browse subjects of particular interest to you, e.g. democracy and governance; peace and security; economic growth and trade; education)

SPECIALIZED TOPICS: In addition to the general readings above, you are expected to choose at least one of the course themes and master more in-depth, focused readings in that topic prior to departure. You can choose more than one if you would like – in fact we recommend that but it is not required. The following are the required readings for the specialized topics.

Morocco – Economic Development

  o http://carnegie-mec.org/publications/?fa=48252&lang=en

Morocco – Political Development, the Monarchy, and Democratization

  o http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/moroccos_islamists_in_power_without_power_1.pdf
Morocco – Security
- Sage, Andre Le, “The evolving threat of al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.” In Strategic forum 268 (2011) Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University. Excellent overview of the threat from Islamic extremists in North Africa as background for understanding Morocco’s real concerns and important role to play in countering violent extremism.
  - http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/research/PartnersAgainstTerrorism2.pdf
- Abdallah Saaf, “Democratic Governance of Security in Morocco.”

Morocco – Gender and Women’s Rights
- “Morocco under Fire over Women’s Rights Bill.”

Morocco – Berbers (Amazigh) and Minority Rights
- Maddy-Weitzman, Bruce, The Berber Identity Movement and the Challenge to North African States. Introduction, Ch. 6, Conclusion.

RECOMMENDED READINGs (relevant, but not required, for student final papers)

Morocco - Economic Development
- Achy, Lahcen, Morocco’s Economy: Poor Performance for 2012 and Deferred Reform”
  - http://carnegie-mec.org/publications/?fa=50652

Morocco – Political Development, the Monarchy, and Democratization
  - http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/08/10/the_reformer_in_rabat?page=0,0
Morocco – Security

Morocco – Gender and Women’s Rights
  - [http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/events/2012/10/25_women_arab_awakening/20121025_arab_women.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/events/2012/10/25_women_arab_awakening/20121025_arab_women.pdf)
- “Morocco under Fire over Women’s Rights Bill,”

Morocco – Berbers (Amazigh) and Minority Rights
  - [http://www.economist.com/node/21525925](http://www.economist.com/node/21525925)
Other Resources:

- James Sater, Morocco: Challenges to Tradition and Modernity (New York; Routledge, 2010). A slim and interdisciplinary study that has been outdated by the Arab uprisings.

Class Policies

Attendance: Students must attend all class sessions, site visits, field visits, and group activities, including discussions during our time in Morocco. Lateness and skipping sessions is unacceptable.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted (unless for death in the family or an equally grave reason).

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented physical or learning disability, please notify one of your directors at your earliest convenience so that we can make arrangements for necessary accommodations.

Code of Academic Integrity. Each student must do his or her own work for this class, without collaboration with classmates or others, unless you are instructed otherwise, for instance, in small group presentations). Along with certain rights, students as citizens of this class, the University of Maryland, Public Leadership, the Minor in International Development and Conflict Management also have the responsibility to behave honorably in an academic environment. Academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any abridgement of academic integrity standards will be referred directly to the campus judiciary. Confirmation of such incidents will result in the earning of an “XF” grade for the course, and may result in more severe consequences such as expulsion. Students who are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty should consult the University publication entitled Academic Integrity, available online at: http://www .jpo.umd.edu/ Other resources are available at: http://www .lib.umd.edu/UES/honesty.html

Conduct and Behavior Abroad. As ethically responsible adults and representatives of the University of Maryland, the School of Public Policy, the Public Leadership Program, and the Minor in International Development and Conflict Management, all students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and responsible manner during our study trip. This policy not only applies to our seminars and other joint activities, but also to your conduct with your host family and during your free time. The Director reserves the right to dismiss a student from the course and arrange for his or her return – at the student’s expense – to the USA if, in the Director’s opinion, the student is taking unreasonable risks or acting irresponsibly or unprofessionally.