

## Amideast Education Abroad Programs

### POLS 310: Political Systems of the Maghreb

**Program Location:** Rabat, Morocco

**Credit Hours:** 3 Credit Hours

**Term and Year:**

#### Course Description:

This course is an overview of Maghrebi politics with a focus on the political dynamics and systems of post-independence Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania. It begins with the historical background of the region focusing on the 20th century. Then it moves on to an outline of the general conditions that shape the formation of modern Maghrebi states: colonial and international interests, regional geopolitics, anti-colonialism and the impact of Arab nationalism, cultural factors, the rise of Islamism and the Arab Springs. Case studies of Maghrebi political systems will create a comparative perspective with other states in the Middle East and North Africa region. Following this introductory and comparative look, the course will focus on the Moroccan political system from the 1950s to the present. In a historical perspective, this part will investigate the evolution of the kingdom from the authoritarianism of the “years of lead” to a relative democracy at the turn of the 21st century. This course will also examine the interplay of the monarchy, the political parties, civil society organizations and the Islamist movements.

#### Learning Outcomes:

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the French and Spanish colonial experiences in the Maghreb.
- Describe how the Moroccan monarchical system functions.
- Analyze the dynamics of politics, identities, cultures, and religions in the Maghreb.
- Position the Maghreb political systems in their Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and African contexts.
- Explain the formation of Maghreb states from colonialism until the Arab spring
- Describe the impact of North African history on current events in the region.

#### Knowledge:

This course is designed to assist students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- North African politics and history.
- Different political theories about North African societies.
- Basic concepts that have shaped the history and politics of North African societies and that are important for understanding the current problems these societies confront.
- The economic conditions of North African societies.
- Governments, political parties, and civil society organizations in the region.

#### Skills:

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring or enhancing the following skills:

- Understanding the Political Formations and its link to the weight of history and colonialism of each country in the Maghreb.
- Critically analyze concepts and theories that molded politics in the Maghreb.
- Analytically examine the political actors in the Maghreb (political Parties, Civil Society Organizations, Labor Unions and Social Movements)
- Discuss and analyze modern political systems in the Maghreb from independence to the Arab Spring.

### Attitudes:

This course is designed to encourage development of the following attitudes:

- Appreciating the complexity of the political systems in the Maghreb, in the context of postcolonial studies.
- Individual and critical positions towards theories and case studies in the former colonized countries and states of the Maghreb.
- Appreciation for the development and the renewal of knowledge and studies after post-cold war transitions in the Maghreb.
- Appreciation of the dynamics between state and civil society in the Maghreb.

### Required Readings:

- **Textbook(s)** (all of these are available in AMIDEAST Library)
  1. Yahia H. Zoubir and Haizam Amirah-Fernandez. *North Africa: Politics, Region, And the Limits of Transformation*. *Routledge*, 2008.
  2. Michael J. Willis. *Politics and Power in The Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco from Independence to the Arab Spring*. *Columbia University Press*, 2012.
  3. Yahia H. Zoubir and Gregory White. *North African Politics: Change and Continuity*. *Routledge*, 2016.
- **Other Readings** (these are the weekly readings to be covered)
  1. Lisa Anderson, "The State in the Middle East and North Africa". *Comparative Politics* (October 1987). <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/421917.pdf>
  2. E. Hermassi, "Political Tradition of the Maghreb." 1973, pp. 207-224. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20024116>
  3. John Waterbury, "The Makhzen: A Stable System of Violence." *The Commander of the Faithful: The Moroccan Political Elite, A study of Segmented Politics*. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London. 1970. 15-32.
  4. Abdellah Hammoudi, "Foundations of Monarchical Authority and Forms of Exercise of power: Toward a Redefinition of the Moroccan Political System." *Master and Disciple: The Cultural Foundations of Moroccan Authoritarianism*. The University of Chicago Press. 1997. 11-43.
  5. Azzedine Layachi., "Islam and Politics in North Africa". *The Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics*. John L. Esposito and Emad El-Din Shahin, (eds.)
  6. Clement Henry Moore, "Political Parties". *Polity and Society in Contemporary North Africa*. William Zartman and William Mark Habeeb. Westview Press, USA. 1993. 42-67.
  7. Fadma Ait Mouss, "The Moroccan Nationalist Movement: From Local to National Networks." *The Journal of North African Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 5, 737-752.
  8. M. S. Tahi, "Algeria Democratization Process: A Frustrated Hope", *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Jun. 1995), 197-220. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3993305>
  9. L. Sadiki, "Bin Ali's Tunisia: Democracy by Non-Democratic Means", *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (May 2002), 57-78. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/826148>
  10. Susan Waltz, "The Politics of Human Rights in the Maghreb." *Islam, Democracy, and the State in North Africa*. John Entelis (ed). Indiana University Press. 1997. 75-92.
  11. P. Moore, "The International Context of Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World", *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 3 (1994), 43-67.
  12. F. Cavatorta, "Civil Society Islamism and Democratization. The Case of Morocco" <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3876155>
  13. G. Joffe, "Morocco: Monarchy and Legitimacy and Succession". <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3992811>
  14. Matt Buelhler, "Labour Demands, Regimes Concessions: Moroccan Unions and The Arab

- and The Arab Uprising". *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. Vol.42, No. 1, 2015, 88-103.
15. J. S. Sater, "The Dynamics of State and Civil Society in Morocco". *The Journal of North African Studies*, Vol 7, Issue 3, 2002.
  16. James Sater, "Civil society in the Maghreb: Lessons from the Arab Spring." *The Handbook of Civil Society in Africa*. Springer, 2014, 95-107.
  17. Mohamed El Hachimi, "Democratization as a learning Process in Morocco". *The Journal of North African Studies*. Volume 20, Issue 5, 2015, 754-769.
  18. M. Ottaway and M. Riley, 2006. "Morocco: From top-down reform to democratic transition?" *Carnegie Papers*, no. 71, September.
  19. Taieb Belghazi and Abdelhay Moudden. "Ihbat: disillusionment and the Arab Spring in Morocco", *Journal of North African Studies*, 2015.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13629387.2015.1084097>.
  20. Raymond Hinnebusch. "Authoritarian persistence, democratization theory and the Middle East: An overview and critique," *Democratization*, 2006, 13:3, 373-395, DOI: 10.1080/13510340600579243
  21. Stuart Schaar and Mohsine El Ahmadi: *The Birth of the Arab Citizen and the Changing Middle East*, Interlink Publications, and Northampton, MA, USA, 2016.
  22. Mohsine El Ahmadi and A. Radi, "Arab Springs and Human Rights Issues", *European Yearbook on Human Rights*, Graz, Austria, Vol. 12, 2012.

#### Assessment Overview:

Description	Weight	Due Date
Engagement	10%	Continuous + weekly reading assignments
Presentations	10%	Each student offers one presentation or two depending on the size of the class.
Midterm Exam	25%	TBD
End of Term Paper	25%	TBD
Final Exam	30%	TBD

#### Attendance and Engagement:

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. Students are further expected to be on time for all classes. Arriving late for class is disrespectful of both the instructor and fellow students.

**For more on the attendance policy, please see the policy posted in the online course and on the Absence request site on the Student Portal.**

#### Presentations:

Students are expected to give at least one presentation during the class. Students select one of the required readings, read it, summarize the main ideas, and present it to the class. The time allocated for each presentation is 20 minutes.

#### Midterm Exam:

The midterm will be an in-class exam on ... Students choose one question (out of 3 or 4) and write an essay of about 1,000 words. Duration: 1:20.

**Research Paper:**

Students will write a research paper on a topic related to the course. Ethnographic research is strongly recommended to benefit from your stay in this country. It should be between 2,500 and 3,500 words long. Students will need to submit a proposal for the topic of this research paper on ..., an outline on ..., and a final draft on ...

**Final Exam:**

The final exam will be an in-class, open book exam on ... It will mainly cover material studied after the midterm exam. Students choose one question (out of 3 or 4) and write an essay of about 1,000 words. Duration: 1:20.

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Classwork	Homework	Exams, Trips and Holidays
	<i>Orientation Week</i>		
<b>Week 1</b>	<p>Course Presentation: Defining and Presenting Approaches and Concepts</p> <p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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. (Total Pages: 69)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Introduction to the course + assigning presentations.</b></p> <p>Prepare questions for discussion.</p> <p>Students are required to hand out weekly summaries of the articles.</p> <p>Students must read the weekly assigned articles and are required to deliver weekly summaries.</p>	
<b>Week 2</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lisa Anderson. "The State in the Middle East and North Africa". Comparative Politics (October 1987). <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/421917.pdf">http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/421917.pdf</a></li> <li>- E. Hermassi, "Political Tradition of the Maghreb". 1973, 207-224. <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/20024116">http://www.jstor.org/stable/20024116</a></li> <li>- John Waterbury, "The Makhzen: A Stable System of Violence," The Commander of the Faithful: The Moroccan Political Elite, A study of Segmented Politics. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London. 1970. 15-32. (Total Pages: 51)</li> </ul>	<p>Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.</p>	

<b>Week 3</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abdellah Hammoudi, "Foundations of Monarchical Authority and Forms of Exercise of power: Toward a Redefinition of the Moroccan Political System", Master and Disciple: The Cultural Foundations of Moroccan Authoritarianism. The University of Chicago Press. 1997. 11-43. (Total Pages: 32)</li> <li>- Azzedine Layachi, "Islam and Politics in North Africa", The Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics. John L. Esposito and Emad El-Din Shahin, (eds.) (Total Pages: 67)</li> </ul>	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	
<b>Week 4</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clement Henry Moore, "Political Parties", Polity and Society in Contemporary North Africa. William Zartman and William Mark Habeeb. Westview Press, USA. 1993. 42-67.</li> </ul>	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	
<b>Week 5</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fadma Ait Mouss, "The Moroccan Nationalist Movement: From Local to National Networks." The Journal of North African Studies, Vol. 18, No. 5, 737-752. (Total Pages: 40)</li> <li>- M. S. Tahi, "Algeria Democratization Process: A Frustrated Hope", Third World Quarterly, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Jun. 1995), 197-220. <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/3993305">http://www.jstor.org/stable/3993305</a></li> <li>- L. Sadiki, "Ben Ali's Tunisia: Democracy by Non-Democratic Means", British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 29, No. 1 (May 2002), 57-78. <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/826148">http://www.jstor.org/stable/826148</a> (Total Pages: 44)</li> </ul>	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	
<b>Week 6</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan Waltz, "The Politics of Human Rights in the Maghreb", Islam, Democracy, and the State in North Africa. John Entelis (ed ). Indiana University Press, 1997. 75-92. (Total Pages: 17)</li> <li>- P. Moore, "The International Context of Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World", Arab Studies Quarterly, Vol. 16, No. 3 (1994), 43-67. (Total Pages: 41)</li> </ul>	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	

<b>Week 7</b>	Midterm Week	Midterm Exam	
	Required Readings: - Mohameden Ould-Mey, "Mauritania: Between the Hammer of Economic Globalization and the Anvil of Multiparty Factionalism", North Africa: Politics. Region. And the Limits of Transformation. Yahia Zoubir and Haizam Fernandez (eds). 71-89. Total Pages: 18)	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	
<b>Week 8</b>	<i>No Class: Break</i>		
<b>Week 9</b>	Required Readings: - Ahmed Aghrout and Yahia H. Zoubir, "Algeria: Reforms without Change?" North African Politics: Change and Continuity. Yahia Zoubir and Gregory White (eds). 2016. 145-155. (Total Pages: 10) - Emma C. Murphy, "From Democratic Consensus to a Struggle for Power: The Fragility of Transition in Tunisia," North African Politics: Change and Continuity. Yahia Zoubir and Gregory White (eds). 2016. 225-242. (Total Pages: 68)	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	<b>Be ready to submit a topic for the final paper.</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	Required Readings: - Christopher M. Blanchard, "Libya: Transition and U.S. Policy", CRS Report, Middle Eastern Affairs January 8, 2018 (Total Pages: 39) - F. Cavatorta, "Civil Society Islamism and Democratization. The Case of Morocco", <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/3876155">http://www.jstor.org/stable/3876155</a> - George Joffe, "The Arab Spring in North Africa: Origins and Prospects", The Journal of North African Studies, Vol. 16, Issue 4, 2011. 507-532. (Total Pages: 44)	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	
<b>Week 11</b>	Required Readings: - Matt Buehler, "Labour Demands, Regimes Concessions: Moroccan Unions and The Arab and The Arab Uprising", British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2015. 88-103 - 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. (Total Pages: 28)	Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.	



<b>Week 12</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mark Tessler and Jennifer Miller- Gonzales, "Maghrebi Youth in the wake of the Arab Spring: General Observations and Evidence from Tunisia and Algeria." North African Politics: Change and Continuity. Yahia Zoubir and Gregory White (eds). 2016. 18-43</li> <li>- J. S. Sater, "The Dynamics of State and Civil Society in Morocco". The Journal of North African Studies, Vol 7, Issue 3, 2002. (Total Pages: 42)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Submit your final paper.</b></p> <p>Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.</p>	<p>Field Visit to the <u>Party of Justice and Development (PJD) Headquarters or another Political Party, depending on availability.</u></p>
<b>Week 13</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- James Sater, "Civil society in the Maghreb: Lessons from the Arab Spring," The Handbook of Civil Society in Africa. Springer, 2014, 95-107.</li> <li>- Mohsine El Ahmadi and A. Radi, "Arab Springs and Human Rights Issues, European Yearbook on Human Rights, Graz, Austria, Vol. 12, 2012.</li> <li>- Ottaway, M., and M. Riley. 2006. "Morocco: From top-down reform to democratic transition?" Carnegie Papers. no. 71, September. (Total Pages: 68)</li> </ul>	<p>Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.</p>	
<b>Week 14</b>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taieb Belghazi &amp; Abdelhay Moudden, "Ihbat: Disillusionment and the Arab Spring in Morocco", Journal of North African Studies, 2015. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13629387.201">http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13629387.201</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Screening of the Documentary: "My Makhzen and Me" (About the Moroccan 20 February Movement).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raymond Hinnebusch, "Authoritarian persistence, democratization theory and the Middle East: An overview and critique", Democratization, 2006, 13:3, 373-395, DOI:10.1080/13510340600579243</li> <li>- (Total Pages: 50)</li> </ul>	<p>Students read the texts and prepare questions and ideas for debate and discussion.</p>	
<b>Week 15</b>	<p><u>Final Exam Week</u></p>	<p><b>Two-hour open book exam</b></p>	
<b>Week 16</b>	<p><u>Reflection Week</u></p>		