CIEE in Rabat, Morocco

Course name: Morocco, Northern Africa, and France: Political and Historical Perspectives
Course number: POLI 3001 MORC (FREN) / HIST 3001 MORC (FREN)
Programs offering course: Rabat Language and Culture
Language of instruction: French
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Course meeting times: Tuesday and Thursday 11am to 1pm
Course meeting place: Rabat Study Center
Term: Spring 2019
Office address: Rabat Study Center
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description
“Ignorance of the past not only harms knowledge of the present: it compromises, in the present, action itself”. Marc Bloch (French Historian).

Morocco’s past is characterized by a rich heritage of ideas, political and religious imaginary and know-how. Notions such as Makhzen, Siba, Bay’a, Shari’a, Zawiya, … illustrate complex relationships between religious and political powers.

The course will particularly study the relation to political power and its interface with the religious dimension in a country that is confronted to dynastic heritage, after-effects of the French Protectorate, nationalistic and post-colonial excitement. We will therefore discuss Moroccan history made of political and diplomatic practices, but also of relation to and management of religious issues. Dating will essentially allow a better understanding of key political challenges in contemporary Morocco (from 1912 to today).

Although Morocco has its own specific national history, the fact remains that it is strategically embedded in the Maghreb, Africa, the Mediterranean and Arab worlds. The country is also closely linked to issues at stake in Europe, through common past history as well as the present, for example by the history of immigration towards France, the West in general, and notably its relation to the USA. The purpose will be to understand what is today specific about a “Moroccan exception” that needs to be looked at in it’s larger political geography.

Course objectives
1– Clarifying the political and religious history of Morocco, in particular Franco-Moroccan relations, in the light of the political past (traditional political structures, colonialism and the struggle for independence) and the most recent political developments, especially the history of immigration. The aim is to introduce students to the specificity of a Maghrebi Muslim country, geographically close to Europe with which respective histories developed through a dense
dialectic.

2 – Generating debate with students’ personal observation as a starting point, and link concepts to historical, sociological, political and religious Moroccan facts and realities. Interaction will allow a better apprehension of fields studied and understanding of cultural, political and religious phenomena, on which to base an open analysis.

3– Developing general knowledge of Morocco, as an interesting key to understanding a relatively complex world, usually called the “Arab world”. The aim will therefore be to elaborate a specific and targeted reading of Moroccan reality, without omitting to focus on the distinctions and similarities through a comparative approach of the MENA region.

4– Finally, providing students with a concrete picture of the Moroccan political system and evolving religiosity.
In addition to presenting the classic constitutional and traditional system of governance, it will be about developing a dynamic post-independence approach: monarchy, political parties and the place of the opposition, the role and impact of brotherhoods, Islam in every day life, political Islamism, media and public opinion.

Key words: colonization, Islamic religion and Judaism, political Islamism and civil society in Morocco, common culture of the Arab world, Moroccan political system, zawiya, makhzen, protectorate, Berber politics, royalty.

**Prerequisites**

Having the desire to explore other forms of thought and other cultural experiences, and an intellectual curiosity beyond culturalist or ethno-centered stereotypes.

**Methodology**

- The course will be carried out through student presentations, debates and educational outings.

- 1– The course is based on the reading of chosen texts, distributed beforehand. Visual materials will include the screening of short videos related to subject studied. Students will be requested to reflect on the topics related to the course and to write short texts (2/3 pages).

- 2– As many topics are suggested as the number of students. Each student is requested to prepare a topic and make a 20 mn presentation, followed by a 20 mn debate allowing him/her to answer questions from fellow students.

**Course assessment**

- Documentation (note-taking & documentation research): 10%
- Oral presentation & Power-point: 30%
2 Research papers (2/3 pages) : 30%
Class / educational outing participation, through question and analysis proposals: 30%

Attendance Policy for CIEE Rabat Study Center courses

If you are absent from class, you will receive a “0” for that day’s attendance and participation. Please inform your instructor AND CIEE staff by email if you are going to be absent as soon as possible before—not after—the class you will miss.

Tardiness Policy for CIEE Rabat Study Center courses

Arriving late to class is disruptive so it is expected that you are in class and ready to start work when class time begins. Participation points will be deducted for tardiness. If you arrive more than 20 minutes late for class you will receive a “0” for that day’s class participation and it will count as an absence in applying the absence policy.

Course syllabus:

- Session 1 – Introduction to the history of Morocco
- Session 2 – The place of the religious in Political systems in general and in Morocco in particular
- Session 3 – Morocco in its traditional political anchoring: the Makhzen
- Session 4 – Ancient Morocco’s dynastic system and places of political and religious power
- Session 5 – Lyautey’s French Protectorate and the Spanish presence in the North: «Moroccan France»: cultural and political footprint
- Session 6 – Moroccan enlisted in the French army, 1st and 2nd World Wars
- Session 7 – The manifesto of independence in 1944 and the excitement of nationalism
- Session 8 – The French tug-of-war and frontal tensions from 1947 to 1956. Political awareness, popular movements and armed resistance
- Session 9 – The exile of Mohamed V. The construction of independence and the relation with France (1956-1962)
- Session 10 – Hassan II. The Commander of the Faithful and political strategy-maker
- Session 11 – History of immigration: cultures and identities
- Session 12 – Mohamed VI. The new political system
- Session 13 – A Geopolitical perspective: - Morocco in north Africa and Africa - Morocco in the Arab world - Morocco in the Mediterranean Union - Morocco in relation to the West (France, Europe, USA, …)
- Session 14 – A politico, social and economic prospective of Morocco

Reading materials and documentation (extracts)
Various reading materials about Moroccan political, social and religious reality:

- AYACH ALBERT, Le Maroc bilan d’une colonisation, Editions spéciales, Paris, 1956
- MOHAMED TOZY, L’islam entre le contrôle de l’état et les débordements de la société civile.
- BERNARD LUGAN, Histoire du Maroc, Perrin, 2000
- VERMEIREN PIERRE, Le Maroc en transition, La Découverte, Paris, 2001
- DALLE IGNACE, Les trois rois. La monarchie de l’indépendance à nos jours, Fayard, Paris, 2004
- LAROUI ABDELLAH, L’histoire du Maghreb, un essai de synthèse, Centre culturel arabe, Casablanca 2011
- LAROUI ABDELLAH, Le Maroc et Hassan II : Un témoignage, Presses Interuniversitaires, Quebec, Casablanca, 2012
- JEAN-CLAUDE SANTUCCI, Le Maroc actuel, une modernisation au miroir de la tradition, 2013
- HASSAN AOURID, L’impasse de l’islamisme, (Maroc), 2015