



# FRENCH COLONIALISM AND DECOLONIZATION: FRANCE, MOROCCO, SENEGAL

**APA Program:** Multi-Country: France, Morocco, Senegal

**Language of instruction:** French

**US semester credits:** 4.0

**Contact hours:** 36 hours (12 hours per host city)

**Term:** Fall Semester | Spring Semester

**Instructors:** Paris - Dr. Heloïse Kiriakou, Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne University

Rabat - Dr. Mohsine El Ahmadi, Cadi Ayyad University

Dakar - Dr. Idrissa Ba, Cheikh Anta Diop University & Coordinator of the Historical Studies Laboratory on Cultural Inventions

## Course Description

This course traces the history of the French colonial project from its rise in the nineteenth century to its demise in the twentieth century. It explores the expansion, management and disintegration of empire, as well as the culture and legacies of empire in France, Morocco, and Senegal. The course begins by exploring how empire and decolonization helped to construct notions of French identity, emphasizing the intertwined nature of the colonial and national projects. The course also considers the traces of the colonial past. The second and third part of the course examine this history from the point of view of the Moroccan and Senegalese people, placing special emphasis on the impact of colonialism on the formation of cultural and national identities. How did Moroccans and Senegalese populations experience colonial conquest and governance, and how did they attempt to formulate alternative cultural and political systems? What problems did people in these former French colonies face in their attempts to build postcolonial states? And what remains of the French empire in Morocco and Senegal? In order to tackle these questions, the course will study primary historical sources, theoretical literature from the field of postcolonial studies, and a Moroccan autobiographical novel.

## Learning Objective

- Learn about the history and culture of colonialism and its aftermath as well as about the national histories of France, Morocco, and Senegal
- Learn to think critically about the relationship between colonialism and modernity, nationalism and imperialism, and more generally between political and cultural processes
- Learn to read, contextualize, and analyze primary historical sources
- Introduce the main theoretical frameworks for postcolonial studies

## **Schedule**

### **Paris - Empire Viewed From the Center: France**

Week 1 - Introduction to Colonial History

- Theory and concepts
- Modernity, French nationalism, and the colonial project

Week 2 - The Rhetoric of the Empire

- Race, evolution, and the civilizing mission
- Imperial culture: the colonies in film, world fairs, and literature

Week 3 - Contesting Colonialism

- Frantz Fanon, Albert Memmi, and J.P. Sartre: 3 critics of colonialism
- The Algerian War of independence and its legacy in France

Week 4 - Decolonization and the “afterlives” of the empire in France

- Headscarves, suburbs, and the immigration debate in France
- Space and colonial memory in Paris
- Course outing: tour of colonial monuments in Paris in connection with readings)

### **Rabat - Morocco’s Colonial Experience**

Week 5 - Morocco: Crossroad Throughout History

- Morocco at the center of colonial designs in the 20th century
- The protectorate

Week 6 - Colonial Culture

- Ideological figures of colonialism: Général Lyautey
- The struggle between tradition and modernity in Moroccan literature

Week 7 - Decolonization and the Search for a Nation-State

- Anti-colonial revolts and the struggle for independence: Mohamed V, Abdelkrim, Ben Arafa
- Nationalism, identity, and legitimacy

Week 8 - Postcolonial Morocco and National Myths

- Historical and political figures of Moroccan nationalism after the independence
- Berbers, Islam, and national identity in postcolonial Morocco

### **Dakar - Colonialism and Decolonization in Dakar**

Week 9 - The March towards Colonialism in Senegal

- Colonial exploration and the Berlin Conference
- The Saint-Louis military base, colonial conquest, and resistance

Week 10 - Senegal in the French Empire

- French colonial administration in Senegal
- Senegal: a typical French colony? Its role and centrality to the French empire in Africa

## Week 11 - The March towards Decolonization

- Senegal in the two world wars
- Opposition to French Rule: political, literary, and labor force movements

## Week 12 - Independence and Colonial Aftermath

- Decolonization and the colonial heritage
- Senegal and France since independence

### **Assessment**

**Each host city professor will assign a grade based on the following components of a student's work. The final grade will be an average of the three grades.**

**Class participation (30%).** Participation has several components: physical attendance, informed oral contribution to class discussions throughout the semester and surprise quizzes (testing reading of the material). Students are expected to come to all classes having completed the readings. Reading assignments listed under each class session should be completed before attending that class. Students may opt to submit an optional response paper on weekly readings for extra credit during the semester.

**Written assignment (30%).** You will be asked to write one 3-4 page analytical essay over the course of each four-week session of the course. A handout with more specific instructions for each assignment will be handed to students. The essays should draw on the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions; no additional or outside research will be required. Late submissions will be docked one-third of a letter grade for every day they are late (for example, an A- essay submitted one day late will receive a B+). An essay that is seven days late automatically receives a failing grade.

**Oral Presentation (10%).** Each student will lead a twenty-minute discussion session in Paris and in Dakar based on a set of primary sources assigned by the professor. In Rabat, students will prepare a 10-minute presentation on a given theme in a Moroccan novel exploring the conflict between modernity and tradition (Driss Chraïbi. *La civilization, ma mère*).

**Final examination (30%).** The final exam will consist of short answer identifications and an essay question. A study guide will be issued for each of these exams. In the final exam the identifications will be drawn from the last half of the course (roughly Weeks 7-14), but the essay question may be cumulative.

### **Bibliography**

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