



INTRODUCTION TO FRANCE, MOROCCO AND SENEGAL: THREE WORLDS, ONE LANGUAGE

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 - Taoufiq Sakhkhane, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University
Dakar - Dr. Mamadou Bodian, Sahel Research Group

Course Description

This course proposes an interdisciplinary exploration of the major social, political, and economic forces that shape contemporary France, Morocco, and Senegal. It begins with an overview of the major historical events that have fashioned each of these societies and surveys the natural and human landscape of the three countries. It then examines the political culture and main institutions of each country as well as the key social and economic challenges that they face. The course considers each society separately but, also examines how they relate to each other through a shared colonial past, common linguistic and cultural features, and by studying how they fit into the larger global order.

Learning Objective

- Introduce students to the key cultural, political, and social factors that have forged French, Moroccan, and Senegalese societies
- Enable students to navigate effectively across these three societies
- To reflect more broadly upon the notion of culture and its relation to politics and economics
- To develop analytical, reasoning, and writing skills

Schedule

Paris - France

Week 1 - History

- Revolution, the Enlightenment and the making of modern France
- France after WWII: decolonization, Gaullism, and May 1968

Week 2 - Politics and Economy

- French political culture in the Fifth Republic and party politics
- Unemployment, the French economy, and the Etat Providence

Week 3 - Society

- Religion, Muslim minorities, and laïcité
- Social, education, and immigration policies

Week 4 - France in the World Order

- Francophonie: language as a political tool in former colonies
- The place of France in Europe

Rabat - Morocco

Week 5 - The Land and its People

- Morocco's geography and natural resources
- Ethnicity and religion

Week 6 - History and Geopolitics

- Brief overview of Morocco's main historical developments
- Morocco and the world: between Maghreb, Muslim umma, and Africa

Week 7 - Politics

- Morocco's monarchy
- Democratization

Week 8 - Issues of Multilingualism, Culture, and Development

- Economic challenges and development policies
- Managing ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity

Dakar - Senegal

Week 9 - Imagined Community: The Territory and the History of the People

- Mapping the Senegalese space and its people
- Empires, colonialism, and the making of postcolonial Senegal

Week 10 - State Capacity

- Islamic society and State power
- Governance challenges: the provision of public service

Week 11 - The Democratic Struggle

- From one-party system to multiparty politics
- Religion and politics in the era of democracy

Week 12 - Identities and Social Dynamics

- Governing religious and ethnic diversity
- Citizenship between the secular and the religious

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). You 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%). Students 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.

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.

Oral Presentation (10%). Each student will prepare a 10-minute presentation requiring a moderate amount of research on a topic chosen from a list of possible subjects which the professor will assign.

Bibliography

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