



COLONIALISM AND POSTCOLONIALISM IN MOROCCO: ISSUES AND DEBATES

APA Program: The Contemporary Maghreb - Rabat, Morocco

Language of instruction: English

US semester credits: 4.0

Contact hours: 36

Term: Summer (6 weeks)

Instructor: Dr. Taoufiq Sakhkane

Course Description

This course traces the history of the colonial project in Morocco and investigates how the problematics of identity, language and representation have manifested since independence. It explores the management and disintegration of colonialism as well as the culture and legacies of empire in Morocco, using both Western historical accounts as well as indigenous scholars writing against the empire. The course begins by exploring how empire and decolonization helped to construct notions of Moroccan identity, emphasizing the intertwined nature of the colonial and national projects. The course also explores the transition from a colonial to postcolonial state and asks what impact colonialism had on the formation of cultural and national identities. How did Moroccans experience colonial conquest and governance, and how did they attempt to formulate alternative cultural and political systems? What problems did they face in their attempts to build a postcolonial state? What remains of this entangled history between France and North Africa? Finally, the course ends with an analysis of more recent American anthropological literature on Morocco, using postcolonial theory to raise larger questions about imperialism and the production of knowledge of cultural “others.”

Course Objectives

- Learn about the history and culture of colonialism in Morocco and after independence.
- Learn to think critically about the relationship between colonialism and modernity, nationalism and imperialism, and more generally between political, economic and cultural processes.
- Introduce the main theoretical frameworks for postcolonial studies.

Assessment

- **Class participation and preparation (25%):** Participation has several components:
 - physical attendance
 - informed oral contribution to class discussions throughout the term
 - 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 (25%):** One 5-page analytical essay (specific instructions will be handed in class). The essays should draw on the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions: no additional or outside research will be required.
- **Oral Presentation (25%):** Specific guidelines will be handed in class.
- **Final examination (25%)**