



DEPARTURE AND RETURN IN FRANCOPHONE FICTION IN THE MAGHREB

APA Program: North Africa & France Comparative Studies - Rabat, Morocco

Language of instruction: French

US semester credits: 4.0

Contact hours: 36

Term: Summer (6 weeks)

Instructor: Professor Hassan Moustir

Course Description

This course critically analyzes the back-and-forth movement between France and the Maghreb in a corpus of Francophone novels, examining the cultural perspectives and personal trajectories of characters who experience either exile, return, or a feeling of in-between-ness (crossing). It interrogates the chronotype of territorial displacement in fiction writing, by situating this displacement in a larger imaginary: that of the departure for the promised land and of the return -- often plagued by disenchantment and leading to an "archeology of the self". Rather than separating these two imaginaries (promised land/return and disenchantment), the course examines the dialectical relationship between these movements and the way they impact writing and cultural representation of self and other.

Course Objectives

- To familiarize students with North African diaspora literature and literature of displacement.
- To understand and critically analyze the imaginary characterizing territorial and cultural displacement in these writings.
- To comment on the relationships between time and space by deconstructing the narrative point of view.
- To compare the way various texts deal with the same issue of exile, displacement and return.

Selected Readings

- *La Disparition de la langue française* by Assia Djebar
- *French dream* by Mohamed Hmoudane
- *Cannibales* by Mahi BineBine

Assessment

- Class participation and preparation (25%)
- Written assignment (25%)
- Oral Presentation (25%)
- Take-home exam (25%)