



GENDER, SEXUALITY AND FEMINISM IN NORTH AFRICA

APA Program: The Contemporary Maghreb - Rabat, Morocco

Language of instruction: English

US semester credits: 4.0

Contact hours: 36

Term: Summer (6 weeks)

Course Description

In this course we identify and trace the centrality of gender and sexuality to the processes of colonialism, postcolonialism, nationalism, and identity construction in Morocco and North Africa. We will also examine the ways in which feminism(s) have been shaped both by and within these different contexts from the late 19th century to the present. We begin by introducing key concepts and theories of gender and sexuality in imperial and post-imperial contexts and looks at the debates surrounding the question of sexuality and women's status in Islam. Why is gender and sexuality so central to questions of identity in the Maghreb? Is Islam a real factor in determining women's position in society? The second part examines Moroccan women's fraught relationship to state nationalism and to Islam, the main laws and policies that regulate sexuality, gender and family relations in Morocco, the debates surrounding gay rights, prostitution, and female emancipation, with attention to both state narratives and the plurality of voices from civil society.

Course Objectives

- Introduce students to feminist theory and intersectional approaches.
- Familiarize students with major debates in the study of non-Western gender, while providing them with a sense of the interlinkages between gender and sexuality on the one hand, and large scale sociopolitical processes on the other.
- Think critically about nationalism and its relationship to gendered processes.
- Develop a thorough and nuanced knowledge of women's issues and sexuality in North Africa.
- Understand and critically assess the surrounding debates and scandals.

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%)**