



AIX CENTER OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Aix Center

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HIS/POL321: French Colonialism in the Middle East and North Africa

M W 15:30-16:55

I COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will examine the region's contemporary political foundations, with a focus on how the recent colonial past has helped shape the political institutions that were recently toppled.

This interdisciplinary course examines the colonial and postcolonial history of North Africa and the Middle East in the context of the region's close connections to Europe, and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the interconnectedness of economic, political, and cultural phenomena. This course will cover Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia as well as their relationships to the history of French colonialism. While the period of sustained European imperial control over North Africa began as early as 1830 in Algeria and as late as 1911-12 in Libya and Morocco, decolonization was almost complete in the region by the early 1960s.

II COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of the course is to acquire general knowledge of European/French – Middle Eastern and Northern African history through the prism of colonialism in its largest definition: its political, cultural, social, and economic aspects.

The second objective is to contribute to a better understanding and analysis of Europe and the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, in its contemporary complexity and diversity.

III LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Explain the causes, major causes, developments, consequences of the Colonial history in the MENA region.
- Link social, economic, cultural and political developments in both European and Northern African Colonial History.
- Identify the historical roots of current events in the MENA region.
- Grasp continuities and discontinuities in the historiography by studying sources coming from different angles.

- Recognise the extent of the impact of the Colonialism on European and Middle Eastern and North African history.
- Develop a personal, subtle analysis of European history in the MENA region in order to better understand Europe today and the recent events in The MENA region.

IV INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES:

This class is a reading- and discussion-intensive course. Students are expected to participate actively and to prepare presentations on selected readings. An interdisciplinary approach will be favoured. Please note that this class is not an overall survey of Middle Eastern and North African history but rather concentrates on key issues in and approaches to North African studies in relation to European policy and Colonialism.

V READINGS:

Primary Textbooks:

Philip C. Naylor, *North Africa: A History from Antiquity to the Present* (University of Texas Press, 2009)

Ellen Lust, Editor, *The Middle East*, (CQ Press, 13th ed., 2013)

Additional readings will be assigned.

Chapters from various books provided by the professor

VI EVALUATION AND GRADING:

- 1) **Four Quizzes** will be given during the semester. They are taken at the beginning of the class, deal with the material covered by the previous classes and last maximum 15 mn. They count for 10 % of the final grade.
- 2) **Response Papers.** Students will write four response papers (300-500 words / approx. 1 page).
- 3) **Presentation.** During the course of the semester, students will be responsible for one 25 mn presentation. It counts for 20 % of the final grade.
- 4) **Participation** counts for 10 % of the final grade. It includes the attitude of the students during the class.
- 5) **Mid-Term Exam (25 %) and Final Exam (25 % of the final grade)** are in-class essays.

VII ATTENDANCE:

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class, and its success depends very much on your coming to class on time, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade.

Unexcused absences have a negative impact on your final grade. Each unexcused absence above two will lower the final grade by a half-letter grade. IAU College excused absences: absences linked to IAU excursions; sickness (a medical certificate is required); emergencies.

VIII CALENDAR:

Week 1:

1. Introduction and presentation to the course.

Week 2:

1. Historical survey of colonialism (1830-1950)

Week 3:

1. Islam - History

Week 4:

1. Colonialism – French definition and European perspectives

Week 5:

1. Islam – Political Islam

Week 6:

1. Resistance and Decolonization: Middle Eastern and North African's independences

Week 7:

1. Review for the Mid-Term Exam
2. **MID-TERM EXAM**

THE COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL STATE: CASE STUDIES

Week 8:

Algeria

Week 9:

Tunisia

Week 10:

Morocco

Week 11: Lebanon & Syria

Week 12:

Contemporary French-North African issues

Week 13:

Presentations and Class discussion
Review for Final Exam