



## Migration and Transnational Identity

AFRS 3000 (3 credits/45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Morocco: Migration and Transnational Identity

**PLEASE NOTE:** This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

### Course Description

The Migration and Transnational Identity seminar provides the main context for students to engage academically, epistemologically, and intellectually with the theme of migration. Students utilize a multi-level and multi-disciplinary approach that considers core issues about the local and global cultural politics, development policies, and their implications on national economies, local communities, and human rights in the context of transnational mobility. The seminar facilitates the student's development of a critical perception capable of assimilating the reality about the interconnectedness and transnationalization not only of problems, but more importantly, of viable alternatives. The Migration and Transnational Identity seminar is divided into modules which explore Mediterranean migration, refugees and human rights, gender and migration, development and transnational identity, and transnational Islam. The seminar balances guest lectures by local experts, class discussions, and field visits. Some of the sessions take place during program excursion to the Netherlands.

### Learning Outcomes

The Migration and Transnational Identity course comprises 45 hours of instruction (3 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate country-specific knowledge about the impact of migration and mobility on Moroccan culture, economy, and society and the underpinnings of Morocco's relations with Europe;
- Show greater understanding of the conditions of trans-Saharan crossings, sub-Saharan immigrants in Morocco, and Moroccan immigrants in Europe;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the dynamics of border cultures, border crossings, and the struggles for the development of a human rights culture that protects the dignity of immigrants and refugees;
- Produce critical papers on issues of migration and trans-nationality as they relate to the economic and social development and the promotion of human rights culture in Morocco.

### Language of Instruction

This course is taught in English, but students will be exposed to vocabulary related to course content as well local linguistic and cultural nuances related to migration through in-country expert lectures and field visits in a wide range of venues and regional locales.

## Course Schedule

\*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

### Module I: Mediterranean Migration: Theories, Trends, and Institutions

This module provides an overview of salient theoretical and methodological frameworks for the study of migration. While the focus is on trends, patterns, and drivers of migration in North Africa and across the Mediterranean, discussions will also bear on the role of migration in social transformation, transit spaces and biographies, memory and diasporic identities, and interactions between human flux and policy.

#### Session 1: Migration theories and Conceptual Frameworks

This session provides an overview and critical assessment of main migration theories. The discussion also aims to tie the conceptual frameworks to the context of Morocco, thus linking migration as a main critical global issue to the specificities of North Africa.

#### Required Readings:

King, Russell (2013) Theories and Typologies of Migration: an Overview and a Primer. Malmö: Malmö University. Available at:  
<https://www.mah.se/upload/Forskningscentrum/MIM/WB/WB%203.12.pdf>

Hear, Nicholas Van (2010) Theories of Migration and Social Change. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36:10, pp. 1531-1536

#### Session 2: Mediterranean migration

This session addresses patterns, drivers, and emerging trends of migration and mobility across the Mediterranean rim. Reflections will also bear on the impact of recent refugee flux on mobility across Europe.

#### Required Readings:

De Haas, Hein (2011) Mediterranean migration futures: Patterns, drivers and scenarios. *Global Environmental Change*, 21:1, pp. 59-69.

Malakooti, Arezo and Davin, Eric (2015) Migration Trends across the Mediterranean: Connecting the Dots (chapters III and V). Available at:  
[https://publications.iom.int/system/files/altai\\_migration\\_trends\\_across\\_the\\_mediterranean.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/altai_migration_trends_across_the_mediterranean.pdf)

#### Session: 3: Transit Migration

The debate about migration by policy makers often invokes the notion of 'transit migration.' This session discusses the politics of transit migration and assesses its conceptual and methodological challenges. The session also explores meanings and possibilities of "transit zones" and "transit biographies."

#### Required Readings:

Düvell, Franck (2012) Transit Migration: A Blurred and Politicized Concept. *Population, Space and Place*, 18, pp. 415-427.

Hess, Sabine (2012) De-naturalising Transit Migration: Theory and Methods of an Ethnographic Regime Analysis. *Population, Space and Place*, 18, pp. 428-440.

#### Session 4: Transnationalism and Transnational Spaces

This session looks into the processes and mechanisms leading to the formation of transnational social formations and spaces. The aim is also to analyze how migrant subjectivities and institutions are impacted by migrant practices and transnational migration.

*Required Reading:*

Faist, Thomas (2010) Towards Transnational Studies: World Theories, Transnationalisation and Changing Institutions. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36:10, pp. 1665-1687.

Session 5: Transnationalism and Institutions

This session includes site visits to the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad ([www.ccme.org.ma/en/](http://www.ccme.org.ma/en/)), the Ministry of Migration, to address the ministry's ongoing work on the new policy of migration and integration strategies of immigrants in Morocco, and Hassan II Foundation.

*Required Reading:*

De Haas, Hein (2014) Morocco: Setting the Stage for Becoming a Migration Transition Country? Available at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/morocco-setting-stage-becoming-migration-transition-country>

**Module 2: Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Human Rights**

This module aims to examine human rights as they pertain to refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in Morocco. This is an area that involves clandestine migration, refugees, and immigrant integration and policy. In addition to lectures, we will visit associations and meet with refugees, asylum seekers, and documented and undocumented Sub-Saharan migrants to disentangle the intricacies between migration, security, sovereignty, and human rights. We will listen to civil society militants who are engaged in the struggle for the promotion of immigrant human rights.

Session 1: Global and local Refugee Policy and Asylum Seekers

This sessions provides an overview of global refugee policy and sample of contemporary dominant theoretical frameworks for the study of refugees and asylum seekers. The focus is on conceptual insights for the study of vulnerable populations in a post-colonial environment. Focus will also be laid on a historical overview of sub-Saharan migration to Morocco. The session addresses the following questions: who are the immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa? Where do they come from? How are they perceived? What are the recent changes with regard to the Moroccan state's approach to its sub-Saharan migrants and refugees?

*Required Readings:*

Anyadike, Obinna (2015). Morocco: The Forgotten of the Migrants Crisis. Accessed at: <http://newirin.irinnews.org/extras/2015/7/28/morocco-the-forgotten-front-line-of-the-migrant-crisis>

Bredeloup, Sylvie (2012) Sahara Transit: Times, Spaces, People. *Population, Space and Place*, 18, pp. 457-467.

Deardorff Miller, Sarah (2014) Lessons from the Global Public Policy Literature for the Study of Global Refugee Policy. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 27:4, pp. 495-513.

Heidrun, Friese (2010). The Limits of Hospitality: Political Philosophy, Undocumented Migration and the Local Arena. In *European Journal of Social Theory August*, 13:3, pp. 323-341

Milner, James (2014) Introduction: Understanding Global Refugee Policy. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 27:4, pp. 477-494.

Session 2: Refugee International Conventions and Laws in Morocco

This session will take place at the office of UNHCR in Rabat which grants refugee status. The session addresses both the situation of asylum seekers and the process of access to refugee status in Morocco. Focus will also be laid on UNCHR assessment of the Moroccan ongoing migration policy launched in September 2013. The session also speaks to the international and national framework and legal terminologies in relation to refugees, seeking asylum, refuge, immigration, and emigration.

*Required Readings:*

Conseil National Des Droits de l'Homme (2013) *Foreigners and Human Rights in Morocco: For a Radically New Asylum and Migration Policy – Executive Summary*. Available at: [http://cndh.ma/sites/default/files/foreigners\\_and\\_human\\_rights-\\_conclusions\\_and\\_recommendations.pdf](http://cndh.ma/sites/default/files/foreigners_and_human_rights-_conclusions_and_recommendations.pdf)

Elmadmad, Khadija (2003) *Mixed Flows and the Protection of Migrants with Special Reference to Sub Saharan Migrants*, paper presented at the *Milan Institute of International Politics (ISPI) Conference on "Human Rights and Refugee Protection in Europe and the Mediterranean"*, Milan 8 October, 2007; see: [http://www.ispionline.it/it/documents/wp\\_26\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ispionline.it/it/documents/wp_26_2008.pdf)

Gammeltoft-Hansen, Thomas (2014) *International Refugee Law and Refugee Policy: The Case of Deterrence Policies*. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 27:4, pp. 576-595.

*Guidebook for asylum seekers in Morocco (2007)*. UNHCR Rabat, 1-6

### Session 3: Syrian and Sub-Saharan Refugees and the question of identity at Orient/Occident Association

This session addresses the case of Syrian and Sub-Saharan refugees and the identity questions it raises in light of Morocco's ties with Syria and *bilad al sham* (the land of the Levant) and countries from Africa South of the Sahara. The discussion attends to the impact these group of refugees has on the cultural and social fabric of Morocco.

#### *Required Reading:*

Belhajali, Salma (2016) *Syrian Refugees Find Support and Solace from Moroccans*. *Morocco World News*, July 6. Available at: <http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2016/07/190804/syrian-refugees-find-support-and-solace-from-moroccans/>

## **Module 3: Migration, Development, and Transnational Identity**

The purpose of this module is to examine, from multidisciplinary angles, issues surrounding migration and social development in, within, and out of Morocco. The module addresses the impact of Moroccan residents abroad, in particular in the Netherlands, on their home and host countries. The overall objective of this module is to gain a sense of the complex cultural, development, and social issues that human mobility experiences entail, especially in light of Europe's increasing hostility towards immigrants and refugees. A few sessions in this module take place during the program's excursions to northern Morocco and to the Netherlands.

### Session 1: Moroccan Residents Abroad: Introduction

This session introduces Moroccan migration to the Netherlands, raises some reflection issues and questions to be addressed during the excursion, and outlines the expected outcomes of the excursion. The session also provides an overview of the history of Moroccan labor migration to Europe and shows the impact of Moroccan diaspora on the country's economy, politics, society, and cultures.

#### *Required Readings:*

Engbersen, Godfried, Snel, Erik and Meeteren, Masja van (2013) *Declining migration from Morocco to the Netherlands and the diminutive causation of migration*. International Migration Institute Working Papers Series, 73. Oxford: Oxford University. Available at: <https://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/wp/wp-73-13.pdf>

Sabry, Tarik (2005). *Emigration as popular culture. The case of Morocco*. *The European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 8:1, 5-22.

### Session 2: Moroccans and Transnationalism

This session addresses the history of Moroccan migration to the Netherlands. Focus will be laid on first generation male "guest workers", family reunification and issues surrounding the Dutch-Moroccan transnational families and individuals.

#### *Required Reading:*

Nadia Bouras. *The Country of Origin: Analyzing Political Discourse and Life Histories on 'Transnationalism', with a Case Study of Moroccan Migrants in the Netherlands (1963-1973)*.

### Session 3: Between Morocco and the Netherlands: An Activist Perspective

This session consists of a meeting with an activist who provides a personal testimony of an experience of transnational activism in Morocco and Europe. The focus is on the rise of anti-immigrant sentiments and Islamophobia in Europe.

#### *Required Reading:*

Doyle, Natalie (2013) Islam, Depoliticization and the European Crisis of Democratic Legitimacy. *Politics, Religion and Ideology*, 14:2, pp. 265-283.

Stolcke, Verena (1999) New Rhetorics of Exclusion in Europe. *International Social Science Journal*, 51:159, pp.25-35.

### Session 4: Inclusion and Diversity in a “Moroccan” Neighbourhood in Amsterdam

This session starts with a visit to *Nisa for Nisa* (Women for Women), an NGO, and includes a visit to a “Moroccan neighborhood”. The purpose is to analyze how immigrant communities negotiate issues of diversity and inclusion.

#### *Required Readings:*

Hekma, Gert (2002) Imams and Homosexuality: A Post-gay Debate in the Netherlands. *Sexualities*, 5:2, pp. 237-248. Accessed at: <http://sexualities.sagepub.com/content/5/2/237.short>

Pels, Trees. Muslim Families from Morocco in the Netherlands: Gender Dynamics and Fathers' Roles in a Context of Change. Accessed: <http://csi.sagepub.com/content/48/4/75.abstract>

Per Van der Veer (2006) *Pim Fortuyn Theo van Gogh, and the Politics of Tolerance in the Netherlands*. *Public Culture Winter*. 18(1): 111-124.

### Session 5: Immigrants to the Netherlands: Two Generations

This session will consist of an open meeting/discussion with first and second generation Moroccan immigrants to the Netherlands.

#### *Required Reading:*

Leurs, Koen. Digital Multiculturalism in the Netherlands: Religious, Ethnic and Gender Positioning by Moroccan-Dutch. <http://www.religionandgender.org/index.php/rg/article/view/36/892>

### Session 6: History and Memory of the Amazigh Movement in the Netherland and Rif Region

This lecture discusses the Moroccan Amazigh Movement in the Netherlands and explains how and why this movement came to play a particular role in the Northern Rif area and the Moroccan diaspora in the Netherlands. From the mid-nineties onwards, Moroccan Amazigh migrants and activists started founding cultural associations. They aim at preserving and reviving Amazigh culture, history, and identity. This session will address the following questions: Who are these activists and why do they emphasize their identity as Amazigh and Rifians? The lecture explains the history of this movement and its members from a memory perspective.

#### *Required Reading:*

Karouche. Norah (2002) “ Where National Histories and Colonial Myths Meet ‘Histoire Croisse’ and Memory of the Moroccan-Berber Cultural Movement in the Netherlands. In *Religions in Movement: The Local and the Global in Comtemporary Faith Traditions*. Robert W. Hener-Johon Hutchinson-Sara Mels and Christinae Timmerman (eds). Routledge (114-131)

### Session 7: Islam and Transnationalism

This session will take place at Amsterdam Grand mosque. It involves a roundtable discussion with the Imam of the mosque. The session addresses issues surrounding transnational manifestations of Islam, including Muslim worship in Europe, perception of the category ‘Muslim,’ and Islam and radicalism.

Bowen, John (2004) Beyond Migration: Islam as a Transnational Public Space. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 30:5, pp. 879-894.

Grillo, Ralph (2004) Islam and Transnationalism. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 30:5, pp. 861-878.

### Session 8: Moroccan Residents Abroad and Participation in Moroccan Political Life

This lecture addresses the polemics over the political participation of Moroccan Residents Abroad in Moroccan politics.

#### *Required Reading:*

De Haas, Hein (2007) *Between Courting and Controlling: The Moroccan State and 'its' Emigrants*. Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society Working Paper 54. University of Oxford. Available at: <http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/about-us/pdfs/between-courting-and-controlling-the-moroccan-state-and-its-emigrants>.

### **Module 4: Gender, Religion, and Mobility**

The aim of this module is to look at the processes of empowerment and disempowerment as they are shaped by women protagonists of social change, national, and transnational migration. The overall purpose is to gain a sense of how women are constructing their own complex paths of geographical and cultural mobility. Areas to be covered will involve the complex relationship between the Southern and Northern shores of the Mediterranean and the interaction between international and local forms of feminisms.

#### Session 1: Gender Dynamics in Morocco

This session gives an overview of the context of gender dynamics in Morocco. It emphasises the role of women's rights activism in shaping social change in Morocco. The session introduces the main actors and subjects of women's rights activism in the country.

#### *Required Readings:*

Zakia Salime. (2007). *The War on Terrorism: Appropriation and Subversion by Moroccan Women Signs*. vol. 33, 1-24.

Lila Abu Lugod (2010) *Active Life of Muslim Women's Rights*. *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. Vol. 6 (No. 1) 1-45.

#### Session 2: Gender and Migration in a Changing Euro-Mediterranean Environment

This session discusses the importance of approaching migration and mobility from the perspective of gender (and not only women). The session also looks in particular at the case of African mothers in Morocco.

#### *Required Readings:*

Lutz, Helma (2010) *Gender in the Migratory Process*. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36:10, pp. 1647-1663

Stock, Inka (2012) *Gender and the dynamics of mobility: reflections on African migrant mothers and 'transit migration' in Morocco*. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 35:9, pp. 1577-1595.

#### Session 3: Site Visit to the Center for Studies and Research on Women's Issues in Islam

This visit will take us to one of the state's women's organizations promoting Moroccan Islam in Morocco and Europe. The leader of the organization, Asma Lamrabet, is a leading Islamic feminist, prolific writer, and activist on Muslim women's rights. Her organization is advocating a third wave feminism that combines both universal human rights and Islamic values.

#### *Required Reading:*

Eddouada, Souad and Pipechilli, Renatta (2010). *Towards an Islamic Feminist State in Morocco*. *Islamic Feminism Today*. Critique International. N 46. Presse de Science Po. Paris. Available at: [http://www.cairn-int.info/article-E\\_CR11\\_046\\_0087--morocco-towards-an-islamic-state-feminis.htm](http://www.cairn-int.info/article-E_CR11_046_0087--morocco-towards-an-islamic-state-feminis.htm)

Marie Claire Fobelet. (2007). *Moroccan Women in Europe: Bargaining for Autonomy*. WASH. & LEE L. REV. 1385 (1358-1415) Available at: <http://law.wlu.edu/deptimages/Law%20Review/64-4Foblets.pdf>

#### Session 4: Women and Citizenship Rights in Morocco

This session addresses the significance of inclusion and exclusions that Moroccan citizenship laws show. The lecture will also tackle the growing feminist civil society activism around issues pertaining to the integration of international norms in Moroccan local laws.

#### *Required Reading:*

Perrin, Delphine. (2011). *Immigration and Citizenship Law in the Maghreb: Turning Aliens into Citizens*. EUI Working Papers, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. Available at: [http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/18054/RSCAS\\_2011\\_40.corr.pdf?sequence=3](http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/18054/RSCAS_2011_40.corr.pdf?sequence=3)

#### Session 5: Wrap-up session of the seminar

This session wraps up the seminar and ensures that the outlined intended outcomes are accomplished.

### **Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

#### **Assignments**

Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation, and presentation of evidence.

The program requires two papers for The Migration and Transnational Identity seminar assessment (one mid-term and one final). Each paper should be five pages long and should be based primarily on library sources (E-resources included). Its theme is expected to be inspired by the lectures and the readings assigned. Justify the selection of your topic if it seems unrelated to the wordings of the sessions' titles or the readings. The overall grade will be based on the field assignments and presentations (20%), mid-term (30%), the final paper (40%), as well as on class participation (10%).

Field assignments and presentation	20%
Mid-term paper	30%
End of Term paper	40%
Class Attendance and Participation	10%

#### **Grading Criteria**

An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical, and/or historical evidence.

**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

### **Expectations and Policies**

- Show up prepared. Be on time. Have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates, lecturers, local constituents with whom we engage on site visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

**Academic Policies:** SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [disabilityservices@sit.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@sit.edu) for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.