Migration and Transnational Identity
AFRS 3000 (3 credits/45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Morocco: Migration and Transnational Identity

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent 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 trans-nationalization 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 (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.
Module 1: 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:

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:

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:
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:

Session 5: Transnationalism and Institutions: Field Visit
This session includes site visits to the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad (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.

Required Reading:

Module 2: Moroccan Migration in Europe: Identity, ‘Integration,’ and Development
This module provides an overview of Moroccan migration in Europe and its overall impact on Moroccan society. An outline of trends, forms and drivers of Moroccan migration to Europe will be followed by an assessment of its economic impact on local development. The cultural and political aspects related to identity, integration, and political participation will also be discussed.

Session 1: Moroccan Migration in Europe: Trends and Economic Impact
This session provides an overview of the demography of Moroccan migration in Europe, its trends and socioeconomic drivers. The economic impact, both on the National and Local levels, will be strongly emphasized.

Required Readings:

Session 2: The Third Generation of Moroccan Migrants in Europe
This session deals with the problem of acculturation and integration among the third generation of migrants in Europe. The discussion will include assessment of policies from the host countries for full integration or assimilation, and from the sending country on identification and cultural continuity.

Required Readings:


Session 3: Moroccan Diaspora and Moroccan Politics
This session looks first at the history of political participation of migrants in the political process in Morocco. Then it will discuss various political demands from migrants, host countries and Moroccan government on the form and political implications of such process.

Required Reading:


Session 4: European Migration to Morocco
This session provides an overview of European migrant community in Morocco, trends and drivers. The discussion will include the economic impact of this migration, acculturation, and social integration.

Required Reading:

Module 3: African Migration in Morocco: Trends, Acculturation, and ‘Integration’
This module gives an overview of African migration in Morocco, drivers, trends and final destinations. The process of socioeconomic integration will be assessed as well as public policy aimed at socio-cultural integration of sub-Saharan migrants.

Session 1: African Migration in Morocco: Economic Marginality and Cultural Accommodation
This session provides an analysis of the socioeconomic situation of African migrants in Morocco with an emphasis on the extent of precariousness and poverty among various categories. The process of acculturation will be discussed with reference to group interaction, language proficiency, schooling, community, and civil society action.

Required Readings:


Session 2: Gender Migration in Morocco
Female migration is becoming a major pattern of current migration movement to Morocco. An assessment will be provided with regard to personal status, education, professional skills, and progressive socioeconomic integration. Perceptions of migrant women, social exclusion, and abuse will be also discussed.

Required Readings:
Caritas Internationalis. (2013). Female Face of Migration. Available at: https://www.caritas.org/2012/03/pdf

Session 3: Migration and Institutions: Field Visit
This session includes a visit to the Orient-Occident Foundation.

Required Reading:

Module 4: African Migration in Morocco: Legal Framework 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 session 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:**


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:**


Session 3: Human Rights Approach to Migration in Morocco

This session shows how far human rights are considered within the Moroccan migration policy. An assessment of institutional build up will be made as well as that of civil society activism.

**Required Reading:**

Session 4: Women’s Rights in Morocco: The Case of Migrant Women
This session provides an insight to women’s rights in Morocco including economic, social, and political rights with a specific emphasis on the share of migrant women. The discussion will focus on various constraints on migrant women’s rights and potential improvements within a changing political context.

Required Reading:

Session 5: Human Rights and Institutions: Field Visit
This session includes a site visit to the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH).

Required Reading:

Session 6: Migration and Communication
This session includes a meeting with two Sub-Saharan migrants from Senegal.

Required Reading:

Session 7: Migration and Institutions: Field Visit
This session includes a site visit to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Required Reading:

Evaluation and Grading Criteria
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.

Description of Assignments:

Final Paper Proposal (30%)
Students choose a research topic in migration studies, develop a research question, produce a literature review on that topic with 10-15 different resources, create a detailed outline of the final paper and what points they will make to support their argument. The final paper proposal should be at least 8 pages, double spaced, in a 11-point font, with page numbers and APA citations for all sources.

Final Paper (60%)
Students will complete a seminar paper of 20 pages (not including works-cited list) that examines a migration and transnational identity issue, offering an in-depth literature review that either: a) extends a topic introduced in class; or b) reviews a topic that is approved by the AD.

Students should design their paper as follows:

**Paper Format:**
- A descriptive title
- Introduction
- Literature review
- Research question
- Findings, evaluation, limitations
- References (use APA for all citations and formatting)

**Participation and Attendance (10%)**
Attendance, punctuality, active involvement in discussions, and completion of reading assignments are mandatory.

**Assessment:**
- Final Paper Proposal 30%
- Final paper 60%
- Participation and Attendance 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.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, 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 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.