SIT Study Abroad

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2014

Course Catalog
NORTH AFRICA and the MIDDLE EAST

JORDAN | Health and Community Development 29
JORDAN | Modernization and Social Change 30
MOROCCO | Field Studies in Journalism and New Media 31
MOROCCO | Migration and Transnational Identity 32
MOROCCO | Multiculturalism and Human Rights 33
TUNISIA | Emerging Identities in North Africa 34
Jordan

Health and Community Development

Investigate health policies and practices in Jordan. Examine the health status of Jordan’s unique population groups including refugees and Bedouin tribes.

Coursework

Healthcare Systems and Policy in Jordan
MDES 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This course introduces students to health realities in Jordan and the government’s efforts in building a modern healthcare infrastructure to serve its population. The course focuses on the challenges facing health professionals, such as chronic health problems typical of a developed nation and concerns about protecting the environment for future generations. The course integrates classroom lectures and field visits to health institutions and associations serving different population groups. Modules in this course include: 1) public health in Jordan; 2) healthcare systems and health populations; and 3) reproductive health, non-chronic diseases, and preventive care. Students get a comprehensive overview of public health, healthcare systems, and major health risks and hazards health professionals face in Jordan.

Course topics typically include:
- Refugee populations and access to healthcare; healthcare in desert and Bedouin tribes; maternal and child health; infectious and noncommunicable diseases in Jordan; cardiovascular diseases in Jordan.

Health, Environment, and Community Development
MDES 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This course addresses the intertwined relationship between health, environment, and social development through an examination of the rights to public health, accessibility to health services, environmental protection, and alternative medical resources. The course also explores the link between poverty and health risks and the role played by civil society associations to facilitate access to disenfranchised segments of the population. The course combines classroom lectures by academics and health professionals and field visits to government health centers and development nongovernmental organizations working in the areas of health development and preventive care. Modules in this course include: 1) health policy; 2) environmental protection and preventive care; and 3) alternative medical care and social development.

Course topics typically include:
- Poverty and health status; Jordan’s water and major health issues; Jordan’s environment and economy; promoting public health through educational campaigns; alternative medicine among Bedouin tribes; the Dead Sea as therapeutic treatment; obesity, diabetes, and diet in Jordan.

Educational Excursions
The program includes excursions within Jordan to explore the country’s ancient heritage and contemporary cultures. Students visit Aqaba to explore the effects of large-scale economic development. Visits to the DANA Nature Reserve, Wadi Rum, and Petra reveal the effects of social change on local communities. A longer excursion to Turkey provides opportunities for regional, cultural, political, and economic comparisons.

Intensive Language Study: Arabic
ARAB 1000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills in Modern Standard Arabic through classroom and field instruction. The course aims to have students use Arabic to express themselves in daily life and develop understanding of Arabic culture through different applications of the language. Students are placed in beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing. There is further language practice in homestays and field visits. A component on Jordanian Colloquial Arabic is also part of the course.

Research Methods and Ethics
ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This course aims at blending cross-cultural awareness with conventional academic learning. It focuses on initiating students to the methods of conducting field research and the ethics involved in the study of health-related issues. Students learn about the cultural particulars of everyday life in urban and rural areas of Jordan and the health resources available to various segments of the population. The lectures address issues that pertain to research methods, confidentiality and anonymity of informants, data gathering, interviewing, and safety and security. The ultimate objective is to prepare students to undertake an Independent Study Project in total respect of in-country ethics and the international ethical norms that regulate health research.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in Amman or another approved location in Jordan appropriate to the project. Sample topic areas: poverty and healthcare in Jordan; health promotion and diet in rural Jordan; refugees and access to medical treatment; medical tourism and local development; obesity and diabetes among female teenagers; water shortage and the health of Bedouin tribes; health promotion in children’s textbooks; religion and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/JOH.
Modernization and Social Change

Examine critical issues in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a moderate Arab state confronting political responsibilities, social change, and the effects of regional conflict.

Coursework

Modernization and Social Change
MDES 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine the major national and international forces shaping contemporary Jordan, including shifting identities and gender roles, economic and social development practices and regulations, immigration, youth, media, and religion.

Lecturers are drawn from institutions including the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Political Development, and the Center for Strategic Studies.

Course topics typically include:

Modernity and Traditions
British colonial influence; tribal role in politics; monarchy and modernization; Islamic principles; urban social mores; media and press freedom; wasata (social connections); immigrant workers; the role of minority groups in government; impact of the Arab Spring on the democratization process in Jordan.

Post Arab Spring: Politics and Refugees in Jordan
Peace and conflict in the Middle East; Jordan and Palestine—common histories; Palestinian and Syrian refugees; Jordan’s relations with neighboring countries; Iraqi refugees in Jordan; youth panel on politics in the Middle East.

Islam and Democracy in Jordan
Islamic parties and democratic participation; revival of Islam; Islam and modernity; women in Islam; the future of Islamist movements in the Middle East; the Arab Spring and the resurgence of Islamist thought.

Gender Relations in a Traditional Society
Women’s role in politics; women’s economic participation; honor crimes; violence against women; Islamic interpretations of gender relations; feminism in the Middle East; family planning and women’s health; gender-related development issues.

Modernization and Sustainable Development
Structure and transformations of the Jordanian economy; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and social development; ecology and environmental policy in Jordan; poverty in urban and rural areas; technology and modernization; ecotourism; private enterprise and government regulations; Qualified Industrial Zones in Jordan.

Educational Excursions
The program includes excursions within Jordan to explore the country’s ancient heritage and contemporary cultures. Students visit Aqaba to explore the effects of large-scale economic development. Visits to the DANA Nature Reserve, Wadi Rum, and Petra reveal the effects of social change on local communities. A longer excursion to Turkey provides opportunities for regional, cultural, political, and economic comparisons.

Intensive Language Study: Arabic
ARAB 1000–3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours
Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills in Modern Standard Arabic through classroom and field instruction. Students are placed in intensive beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing. Further language practice is available during homestays and on field visits. A component on Jordanian Colloquial Arabic is also part of the course.

Research Methods and Ethics
ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
A qualitative research design course designed to provide an overview of methodological field study approaches within the local cultural context, affording students the tools necessary to conduct field research in Jordan. This course not only introduces field-based research skills (such as interviewing and participant and non-participant observation), but also strengthens students’ cultural awareness through exercises and discussions about student positionality and the ethics of fieldwork in Jordan. Research ethics and the Human Subjects Review process are core components of the course.

Program Duration
Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Credits
16

Program Base
Amman

Language Study
Arabic

Homestay
Amman, 12 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay
Badia area, 5 days

Other Accommodations
Hostels, rental apartments, hotels, camping, rural visit

Independent Study Project
4 weeks

Prerequisites
None

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in Amman or another approved location in Jordan appropriate to the project.

Sample topic areas:
- political power of tribes; social change through modern art; the Christian population in Amman; nationalism; women’s participation in civil society; Islam and state development discourses; NGOs and donor interaction; freedom of expression in the press; relationships among youth.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/JOR
Morocco

Field Studies in Journalism and New Media

Advance your skills in journalism by studying under the expert guidance of seasoned award-winning professional journalists in an international environment.

Coursework

Contextual Studies in Journalism: Morocco and North Africa
JOUR 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
This interdisciplinary course combines lectures on journalism with key issues of Moroccan society, politics, and culture. Students can learn foreign reporting in print, video, audio, photography, and/or multimedia under the supervision of veteran journalists, and have the possibility of placing the stories they report from Morocco in US media outlets. Students learn from leading Moroccan scholars and academics about all aspects of Moroccan society.

Course topics typically include:

- **Journalism in Context**
  History of journalism in postcolonial Morocco; popular culture and mass media in North Africa; media organizations and ownership in Morocco; journalism ethics; the unique nature of doing journalism in another cultural context.

- **Journalism and Political Culture**
  Lecture topics from leading Moroccans in the artistic, social, and political realms, including established academics, include religious values, women’s issues, economy and migration, education and literacy, human rights, youth, and artistic culture.

- **Educational Excursions**
  Students experience the imperial cities of Meknès and Fès; the southern cities of Errachidia, Rissani, and Merzouga; and Ouarzazate, the High Atlas Mountains, and Marrakech. The stay in Morocco’s interior reveals challenges facing rural Moroccans, while also providing story ideas.

Intensive Language Study: Arabic or French
Students at the beginning or intermediate level of language study take Modern Standard Arabic. Students at the intermediate high or advanced level have the option of taking Arabic or French. A component on Moroccan Colloquial Arabic is also part of the course.

ARAB 1000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
The Arabic courses integrate reading, writing, listening, grammar, vocabulary, and conversation, and are designed to prepare students to engage in everyday communication. Homestays and field excursions further support language acquisition.

FREN 2500–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
These courses aim to enhance students’ skills in French, with emphasis on written and spoken competency. The focus is on the French lexicon used in the fields of journalism, media, and communications through communicative exercises, comprehension, presentations, and debates, along with grammar learning, translation, and composition.

Field Ethics of Journalism in Morocco
JOUR 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This three-part course 1) introduces students to the intricacies of doing journalism in a Moroccan cultural context; 2) provides an overview of the Press Code unique to Morocco and the legal milieu in which Moroccan journalists practice; and 3) covers the ethics of conducting a journalistic assignment in an international environment. Throughout the course, students learn techniques for accessing local resources, which will aid in gathering information for news and feature stories. The field ethics course consists of online courses developed for this program by the Poynter Institute. Students adhere to the highest professional standards of journalism ethics and this subject is woven seamlessly throughout the program, in reporting assignments, peer edits, and especially in the Independent Study in Journalism process.

Independent Study in Journalism
ISPJ 3000 / 6 credits / 180 class hours
Students propose, research, and execute a full-length feature, which is considered for publication or broadcast in a US media outlet. Students have the unprecedented opportunity to be mentored by professional journalists from Morocco and Round Earth Media. They are paired with Moroccan journalism students who speak English. Students learn what it means to organize a story; select sources; question deeply; work toward balance; be alert to bias (and clichés); rework and rewrite; strive for clarity; and produce accessible, flowing prose, images, and/or sound. Recent story topics: music and politics; women’s fight for inheritance rights; Spanish migration to Morocco; the desert marathon.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/MOJ.
Morocco

Migration and Transnational Identity

Explore the complex effects of human mobility on local communities, global politics, and transnational economies.

Coursework

Migration and Transnational Identity
AFRS 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course addresses core issues pertaining to migration in relation to Mediterranean space, local and global cultural politics, and development policies, as well as the implications of migration on national economies, local communities, and human rights. Lecturers are drawn from the Research Group on Migration and Culture at the University Mohammed V in Rabat, the UNESCO Chair on Migration in Morocco, Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, the Institute for African Studies, and local and international nongovernmental organizations based in Rabat and in northern Morocco. The course is composed of modules which may include sub-Saharan migration to Morocco, refugees and borderlands, gender, religion and mobility, migration and human rights, migration and development, social movements, and transnational identities. The topics covered include: migration in Islam; mobility, transnationality, and border identities; sub-Saharan immigrants and human rights; illegal or forced migration; migration and gender; testimonial narratives of sub-Saharan migrants and Moroccan deported/former migrants; migration and security; EU-Moroccan partnerships and migration management; underaged migrants; desertification, poverty, and migration; urban and rural development and migration; Moroccan residents abroad and local development; Moroccan residents abroad and post-Arab Spring political change in Morocco; art and nomadism; sub-Saharan artists in Morocco; Moroccan diasporic cinema; migration and media; sub-Saharan undocumented migrants activism.

Research Methods and Ethics
ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This course is designed to provide firsthand experiential knowledge about the richness and challenges of conducting field study in Morocco. It provides the necessary conceptual and methodological threads that enable students to learn from experience, apply knowledge and skills gained in the thematic and language courses, and prepare to undertake field study in Morocco in strict observance of research procedures involving human subjects and the regulatory ethical norms defined by the SIT Institutional Review Board. At the end of the course, students should have the cultural understanding and methodological tools to successfully complete an Independent Study Project. The course is also designed to answer specific concerns that research on migration generally raises. Lectures address issues that pertain to research methods, confidentiality and anonymity of informants, data gathering and interviewing, and safety and migrant psychology. Individual meetings are scheduled throughout the course to prepare students for their Independent Study Project.

Intensive Language Study: Arabic
ARAB 1000–3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours
The course is designed to equip students with a proficiency level in spoken Standard Arabic in order to engage in everyday communication. Students are placed in intensive beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing. The course integrates the skills of reading, writing, listening, grammar, vocabulary, and conversation. Students with prior study in Arabic find reinforcement of Modern Standard Arabic through the media. Homestays, field excursions, and everyday interactions assist in language acquisition. A component on Moroccan Colloquial Arabic is also part of the course.

Program Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks
Credits 16
Program Base Rabat
Language Study Arabic
Homestay Rabat, 7 weeks
Rural Visit/Homestay Beni Mellal region in central Morocco, 4 days
Other Accommodations Hostels, guest houses, or small hotels
Independent Study Project 4 weeks
Prerequisites There are no prerequisites; however, students with a background in French will find ample opportunity for French language practice while also learning Arabic. Students with a background in Spanish will also have the opportunity to practice their Spanish language skills in northern Morocco.

Educational Excursions
The program includes three major excursions: Khouribga, Beni Mellal, and Lafiaq ben Saleh (village stay); the northeast of Morocco, including Nadar, Al Hoceima, and Berkane; and Amsterdam and The Hague in the Netherlands. Each excursion focuses on a different aspect of migration and is designed to help contextualize the debate on migration in relation to global politics and policymaking, development, and Moroccan society and culture.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Students work closely with their academic director and an advisor to design an Independent Study Project. Sample topic areas: refugees and human rights; perceptions of Spanish-Moroccan borders; sub-Saharan Africans and Gnawa music; consequences of irregular migration on racial perceptions; origins of flamenco in the Maghreb; social and cultural impact of Moroccan migration; migration and rural development; European economic crisis and return migration; young men’s transnational conceptions of masculinities and sexuality in Morocco; sub-Saharan women’s activism in Morocco; transnational analysis of difference and feminist pluralism in Morocco; conflict between Moroccan security forces and sub-Saharan immigrants; access to healthcare; irregular migrants in Morocco; the situation of Senegalese street vendors in Rabat.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/MOM.
Morocco

Multiculturalism and Human Rights

Examine challenges shaping Morocco and the Arab world: authoritarian rule, democratic transition, economic liberalization, civil society, Islamic movements, and constitutional reforms following the 2011 Arab Spring.

Coursework

Multiculturalism and Human Rights in the Context of the Arab Spring
AFRS 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course that examines the diverse forces shaping contemporary Moroccan society, with particular emphasis on ethnicity, culture, and human rights. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as University Mohammed V, Hassan II University, Ibn Tofail University, the Center for Cross Cultural Learning, the National Council for Human Rights, the Royal Institute for Amazigh Culture, the Central Entity for the Prevention of Corruption, the National Library, the National Observatory for Human Development, the League of Muslim Scholars, Thaqafat Association, Anbji, and other local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Course topics typically include:

- **Multiculturalism and Social Change**
  Dynamics of multilingualism; multicultural identity in the new 2011 constitution; political actions of civil society; social movements in the aftermath of the Arab Spring; Berber and Arab culture; social issues; class interactions; Moroccan folklore; colonial art and Western visual representations of Morocco; globalization and social change.

- **Politics and Human Rights**
  Monarchy and modernization; the Arab Spring and constitutional reforms in Morocco; the US and the democratization processes in MENA; the role of social movements and civil society in Morocco’s democratization process; current political challenges; human rights issues; media and politics; the Sahara question; sub-Saharan migration and human rights; the “Years of Lead” and transitional justice in Morocco; youth and political participation.

- **Religion and Gender Issues**
  Role of Islam in contemporary politics and daily life; secular and religious interpretations of Islam; jihad and political Islam; extremism and terrorism; Moroccan Judaism; women and Islam; conditions of women in rural and urban Morocco; Moroccan feminism; state feminism and political representations; Islam and sexuality.

Educational Excursions
The program features excursions to three mountain regions in Morocco: the High Atlas, the Middle Atlas, and the northwestern Rif; the southeastern desert; the main urban centers in Morocco including Marrakech and Essaouira; and NGOs throughout Morocco. These excursions are designed to give students an understanding of Morocco’s rich cultural, historical, and ecological diversity.

Intensive Language Study: Arabic
ARAB 1000–3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours
Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills in Modern Standard Arabic through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, students are placed in intensive beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes. Students are introduced to Moroccan Arabic and given opportunities for further language practice through homestays, lectures, and field visits. An introduction to Arabic calligraphy is also part of the course.

Research Methods and Ethics
ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This course provides the necessary conceptual and methodological threads that enable students to learn from experience, apply knowledge and skills gained in thematic and language courses, and prepare to undertake field study in Morocco in strict observance of research procedure involving human subjects and the regulatory ethical norms defined by the SIT Institutional Review Board. The course is also designed to answer specific concerns research on human rights generally raises. The class discussions address issues that pertain to research methods and ethics, including confidentiality and anonymity of informants, data gathering, interviewing, safety, and the psychology of minority groups and victims of repressive systems.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
The Independent Study Project (ISP) offers students the opportunity to undertake significant, specific, and individualized independent study in which they apply the concepts and skills of experience-based learning articulated and learned in all the components of the program. Sample topic areas: human rights organizations in Morocco; street children; environmental policies; rural education; (post-)Islamism; authoritarianism and democratic transition; arts and politics; the politics of emotion; the impact of the European crisis on North Africa; sub-Saharan migration in North Africa; Sufism; cooperation and activism; inheritance rights and ijtihad in Morocco’s modern society; childbirth in rural Morocco; Sufi poetry; laughter and the politics of expression among women in rural Morocco; the culture of volunteering in Muslim countries; code-switching and multilingualism in Moroccan music.

Program Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks
Credits 16
Program Base Rabat
Language Study Modern Standard Arabic
Homestay Rabat, 8 weeks
Rural Visit/Homestay Oulmes region, 6 days
Other Accommodations Hostels, private homes, or small hotels
Independent Study Project 3 weeks
Prerequisites There are no prerequisites; however, students with a background in French will find ample opportunity for French language practice while also learning both Moroccan and Modern Standard Arabic.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/MOR

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

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33
Tunisia

Emerging Identities in North Africa

Examine the dynamics between modernity and tradition, technology and culture, Islam and constitutional democracy, and history and social change in Tunisia, birthplace of the Arab Spring.

Coursework

Arab Spring and Emerging Identities in North Africa
MDES 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course that focuses principally on contemporary Tunisia and the democratic process initiated by the Jasmine Revolution. Students examine the intersections between Western-style capitalism, increased globalization, and socioeconomic developments of Tunisia in the context of political change. They also explore the ways Tunisian society is currently engaging with the complex issues raised by emergent political processes, history and colonial legacies, multilingualism, women’s rights, and the rise of Islamist ideologies. The objective of the course is to enable students to evaluate, through the careful scrutiny of the country’s public and political events, the chances of success and the risks of failure of the first constitutional democracy in the Arab world.

Youth, Media, and Social Movements
MDES 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
The course examines the deep social and cultural transformations caused by the rapid dissemination of digital media, principally the role that social media such as Twitter, Facebook, and blogs have played in the Jasmine Revolution and other popular insurrections in the Arab world. A principal objective of the course is to study how Tunisian civil society—especially women’s organizations, human rights activists, and other advocacy groups—are using social media for more effective consciousness raising and mobilization and formation of new cultural bonds. The lectures, debates, and educational excursions foreground the tensions and moments of continuity between modernity and tradition in Tunisian culture, illuminating various themes, such as bilingualism, the reemergence of the veil among young women, the mitigated success of secularism, as bilingualism, the reemergence of the veil among young women, the mitigated success of secularism, the rise of Islamist ideology among youth. Lectures for both courses are given by academics from Tunis University and members of civil society.

Educational Excursions
Two weeklong excursions take students to the southern regions of Tunisia, including Matmata, Djerba, Tozeur, and Kairawan, as well as to the northern Mediterranean coast. Excursions highlight the origins of the Jasmine Revolution and the country’s place at the crossroads of many civilizations, including Phoenician, Roman, Berber, Arab, Turkish, and European. Several short field trips are planned within Tunis and the Cap Bon region, including Hammamat, a popular holiday resort, where students observe firsthand the impact of mass tourism on traditional lifestyles.

Intensive Language Study: Arabic or French
Students choose to enroll in either Modern Standard Arabic or French. Students are placed in beginning, intermediate, or advanced Arabic or French language classes based on in-country evaluation.

Intensive Language Study: Arabic
ARAB 1000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

French in Tunisian Contexts
FREN 1000–2000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

North African Francophone Literature
FREN 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Research Methods and Ethics
ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This is a qualitative research methods course designed to provide an overview of methodological approaches within the local cultural context. The course offers students the basic tools necessary to conceive and conduct field research in Tunisia. The course introduces field-based research skills (such as interviewing and participant and non-participant observation), and strengthens students’ cultural awareness through exercises and discussions about researcher positionality and the ethics of fieldwork in Tunisia. The course provides students with the cultural understanding and critical acumen necessary for the successful completion of the Independent Study Project.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in Tunis or in another approved location appropriate to the project. Sample topic areas: social media and popular protest; hijab (veil) in contemporary Tunisian society; identity formation through Islamic education; Arab views on national press; gender and news bias; governance and youth empowerment; youth and social media; revolutionary mural art; Arab reality TV; homosexuality in Islam.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/TNC.