



KIIS Morocco Program, Summer 2024

HON 300 / IDST 350 Topics: Contemporary Morocco

Instructor: Prof. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This course examines topical issues faced by Moroccans, and other North African and Sub-Saharan African populations in contemporary Morocco. The goal of the course is to give an introduction of contemporary debates on migration, clandestinity, marginalization, religion, and identity in a globalized Morocco. Students will foster informed debate and discussion regarding the cultures and societies of the region. Knowledge from multiple sources (audio/visual texts) is used to help students find, compare, and contrast content in a variety of ways.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Students will immerse themselves in contemporary Moroccan cultures through a variety of arts and media, and be able to compare and contrast to their own cultures.
- Students should participate in well-informed discussions of knowledge presented in readings and visual material. that portray social, cultural, and political issues.
- Students should develop an independent voice, established through critical analysis of texts as well as visual material.
- Students should demonstrate the ability to analyze or contextualize visual material such as documentaries, architecture, landscaping, paintings, folklore and popular culture performances, etc.
- To be able to reflect and write journal entries/short papers articulately and critically about the Moroccan society and culture.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Multiculturalism and Interfaith in Today's Morocco
- *Harrāga*: Clandestine Immigration
- Art, Gender Rights and Sexuality in Contemporary Morocco
- Mega Projects in Contemporary Morocco

6. Required Readings: Students will be given a course reader before they leave for Rabat and/or will have some materials available on YouTube.

Videos:

Introduction to The Kingdom of Morocco - Country Overview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4-9jM09fzw>

Multiculturalism and Interfaith in Today's Morocco: "The Kingdom of Morocco – Culture"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeWb6YoJc8c>

Clandestine Immigration : "Europe's most fortified border is in Africa"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY_Yiu2U2Ts

Sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco trapped by virus and poverty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVly8xk9Urw>

Art and Gender Rights in Contemporary Morocco: Morocco: "Women's voices"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3_iACGM9NM

"Zainab Fasiki On Using Comic Books To Fight Sexism | Next Generation Leaders"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFvDUvn-zl8>

"Zainab Fasiki Fights for Women's Rights"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0hPuy3GMHY>

"Zainab FASIki (Moroccan artist) on the BANG at BIG2022"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFQ83wceJyY>

Writing and screening homosexuality: "Abdellah Taia | African, Muslim, and Gay"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THnQ9JmR_fk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmLqMb4NiIE>

Society, Economy, and Modernism in Morocco: "10 Most Impressive Mega Projects In Morocco" The New Africa Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWyKXXMx010>

Film:

Salvation Army, Abdellah Taïa

Article:

"Contemporary Moroccan urban experiences in *Dārīja*: a reading of Youssouf Amine Elalamy's *Tqarqīb Ennāb* (Chatter)", Slitine El Mghari, Nisrine.

7. Graded Assignments:

Grading scale

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

Attendance (20 %)

Participation and assiduity are key to your success in this course. You will be marked primarily on evidence of 1) regular attendance and engagement, 2) prior preparation and completion of homework assignments, 3) active participation individually and in small groups. Students will be expected to attend all classes. Two absences will be permitted with no penalty; for each absence after that, the attendance grade will be lowered by 5%. Class

In-Class informal presentations: (25%): Students will give a daily brief (1-2 minutes) oral report/comment on the reading assignment. You may choose your own (audio/visual) text, but you should be ready to explain how it connects to that day's reading assignment.

Homework (25%)

Students will be asked to write weekly homework assignments, which will be short-answer questions designed to show that they are developing a familiarity with different aspects and content of the course.

Final Project (30%)

Students will create a "Contemporary Morocco" final project. It can be in the form of a journal, an annotated photojournal, a virtual tour, or another design proposed by the student. Students will create entries based on the sites visited and events they participate in during the course. Their goal will be to create a document that will introduce other students to Contemporary Morocco.

8. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

9. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

10. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.