INTRODUCTION TO MODERN NORTH AFRICA  
HIS 306N- 39115  
Fall 2012

Instructor: Benjamin C. Brower  
Office: Garrison 3.204  
Office Hours: M 2-4 pm, and by appointment  
Telephone: 512-475-6813

Email: benbrower@utexas.edu  
Class Meeting Times: MWF 1100 - 1200  
Meeting Place: PAR 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This survey presents the major themes of North African history from the sixteenth century to the present. It will examine in particular that part of North Africa known in Arabic as the Maghrib (today’s Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya). The Maghrib’s history intersects several fields of study (European, African, and Middle Eastern studies), and Muslims, Christians, and Jews have made their homes here. They marked the region with multi-religious and multi-linguistic traditions, and the convergence of these traditions will occupy much of our attention. Connections are another important theme. In the early modern period, we will examine the merchants and privateers who linked Europe and the Middle East from Mediterranean ports, and how caravans made their way across the Sahara to join the region with the rest of Africa. Our attention then moves to the period of European ascendency, when France and Italy established colonies based on highly unequal and exploitative social relations. The period of European colonial rule came to an abrupt and violent end in the decades after the Second World War, and the course turns to the challenges faced by post-colonial nation states. These included realizing promises such as self-determination and economic development, a project that ended in political authoritarianism. We conclude with the rise of Islamist opposition movements in the 1990s and the revolution that toppled Ben Ali’s regime in Tunisia, 14 January 2011.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Along with the material described above, students will learn the skills of historical analysis and interpretation. This includes the ability to grasp the complexity of historical debates and rethink received knowledge in light of new evidence. Coursework and exams will focus on students’ ability to articulate coherent and sustained arguments in writing and verbally. There are no pre-requisites beyond those generally associated with a course of this level.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
You will need to purchase the following books or use reserve copies in library.

Additional required readings noted in schedule of class meetings will be available as E-Books through the UT Library or distributed electronically.

Films:
“The Battle of Algiers” (G. Pontecorvo, 1966, 121 mins.)
“Bab el-Oued City” (M. Allouache, 1994, 93 mins.)
COURSE RULES:
• Students are expected to disable the Internet accessibility function of all electronic devices used in class.
• Cell phone use of any sort will not be tolerated.

ASSIGNMENTS:
• Exams: There will be one midterm and a comprehensive final exam. These exams will consist of analytical ID’s and essays. A list of potential ID’s and questions will be distributed to prepare for the exams. SEE THE CLASS SCHEDULE BELOW FOR DATES.
• Short response papers: you will write three brief papers. Two will be on the major in-class readings (chosen from Ibn Khaldun, Haddad, and Chourki), and one will be on a film (either the “Battle of Algiers” or “Bab el-Oued City”). You will summarize and analyze how each reflects and challenges the themes of North African history. Length: 2-3 pp., double-spaced, 12 pt. font. Proofread carefully: correct use of language is expected and will figure in grading. (see Blackboard document “Paper guidelines” for full instructions)
Due dates: one week after the class discussion of each book/film.

GRADES:
Midterm 25%
Final Exam 35%
Writing 25%
Participation 15%

Plus/Minus grading will be used for all grading in this course. The grade scale is as follows:
100-94% = A; 93-90% = A-; 89-87% = B+; 86-84% = B; 83-80% = B-; 79-77% = C+; 76-74% = C; 73-70% = C-; 69-67% = D+; 66-64% = D; 63-60% = D-; below 60% = F.

ATTENDANCE:
• Attendance, preparation, and active participation in all course sessions are mandatory.
• Please familiarize yourself with the University’s policy concerning excused absences. Unexcused absences will impinge upon your final grade: 3 unexcused absences will result in the loss of 1 full letter grade; more than 5 will result in loss of 2 full letter grades.
• Religious Holy Days: By University policy, please notify me of your pending absence fourteen days prior to the anticipated date of observance of religious holy days. If you must miss a class, an examination, or an assignment, for religious observance, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

University of Texas Honor Code:
The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.
All work for this course will be that of the student and original contributions. I militantly pursue cases of suspected plagiarism and cheating.

Disabilities:
The University of Texas at Austin provides accommodations for students with disabilities. Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 or 232-2937 (video phone).
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS
(Subject to Revisions and Changes)

WEEK ONE: August 29-31 (Read Naylor, pp. xiii-14)
Introduction
   Wednesday: Introduction
   Friday: Maghrib Borderlands

WEEK TWO: September 3-7
Early Modern Maghrib and the Mediterranean World
   Monday, ***Labor Day Break***
   Wednesday, Geography: Mediterranean Lands (“Tell”)
   Friday, **Readings Discussion:** Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqadima* (selections)

WEEK THREE: September 10-14 (Read Naylor, pp. 109-140)
Maghribi Cities & Countryside
   Monday, Geography: The Sahara
   Wednesday, Cities
   Friday, Rural Society

WEEK FOUR: September 17-21
An Age of Empire: Ottoman-Era Maghrib States
   Monday, Politics: Spain and the Ottoman Empire in the Western Mediterranean
   Wednesday, Politics: The Ottoman Provinces (Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers) and the Moroccan State
   Friday, **Readings Discussion:** Garcia-Arenal, *A Man of Three Worlds* (E-Book available, UT library)

WEEK FIVE: September 24-28
Corsairs & Captivity
   Monday, Mediterranean Commerce
   Wednesday, “Christians of Allah”: European Captives and Slaves
   Friday, **Readings Discussion:** Vitkus, ed., *Piracy, Slavery, and Redemption* (selections)

WEEK SIX: October 1-5
   Monday, Mid-Term Review
   Wednesday, The French Revolution and the End of Ottoman Algeria
   Friday, ***MID TERM EXAM***

WEEK SEVEN: October 8-12
The Beginnings of French Imperialism in the Maghrib, 1827-1847
   Monday, Algerian Responses
   Wednesday, France’s “Indigenous Question” in Algeria
   Friday, **Readings Discussion:** Abd al-Qadir on jihad and authority
WEEK EIGHT: October 15-19 (Read Naylor, pp. 141-167)
Colonizing Algeria, 1848-1914
    Monday, Settler Colonialism and the Land Question
    Wednesday, Colonial Policy and Islam
    Friday, Assimilation or Association: The Citizenship Issue

WEEK NINE: October 22-26 (Read Naylor, pp. 168-192)
The Maghrib Faces European Colonialism, 1830-1920s
    Monday, Tunisia Responds to the European Threat
    Wednesday, The “Pacification” of Morocco
    Friday, Italian Colonialism in Libya

WEEK TEN: October 29-November 2
Anti-Colonial Movements
    Monday, From Resistance to Reform
    Wednesday, Islamic Reform Movements, prt. 1
    Friday, Readings Discussion:
        • Tahar Haddad, *Muslim Women in Law and Society*. Read the following: pp. 1-27 (introduction), 35-56 (C1 Women in Islam), 133-55 (C8 Scenes from Daily Life), and 170-71 (Conclusion) (*Muslim Women* is available as E-Book, UT library catalog search under author “Husni, Ronak.”)
        • Bahithat al-Badiya (pp. 70-76) in Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam, 1840-1940: A Sourcebook* (E-Book available, UT library)

WEEK ELEVEN: November 5-9 (Read Khayr al-Din (pp. 40-49), Rashid Rida (pp. 77-85), Abd al-Hamid ibn Badis (pp. 93-95), in Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam, 1840-1940: A Sourcebook* E-Book available, UT library)
The Rise of Nationalism
    Monday, Islamic Reform Movements, prt 2.
    Wednesday, Maghribi Nationalism, prt. 1
    Friday, Maghribi Nationalism, prt. 2.

WEEK TWELVE: November 12-16 (Read Naylor, pp. 193-214)
National Liberation
    Monday, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libyan Independence
    Wednesday, Algeria, Why War?
    Friday, Algeria 1954-62
    Film Discussion: “Battle of Algiers” (Directed by G. Pontecorvo).

WEEK THIRTEEN: November 12-16
Triumphs and Trials of Independence
    Monday, Bourguiba’s Tunisia
    Wednesday, Independent Algeria: Economy and Society
    Friday, Readings Discussion: Chourki, *For Bread Alone*
WEEK FOURTEEN: November 19-23 (Read Naylor, pp. 215-246)
The Unraveling
  Monday, Algiers: Black October 1988 & Rise of the Islamist Oppositions
  Wednesday, Algeria: A Civil War or a War on Civilians?
  Friday, ***Thanksgiving Break***

WEEK FIFTEEN: November 26-30 (Read Lahouari Addi, “Algeria’s Army, Algeria’s Agony” in Foreign Affairs vol. 77, no. 4 (July-Aug. 1998): 44-53 (this journal is available electronically through UT library)
Political Evolutions: Change without “Progress”
  Monday, Economic Liberalism and the Revolutionary Legacy
  Wednesday, Blowback: Al-Qaeda and the US-led War on Terror
  Friday, Film Discussion: “Bab El-Oued City” (Directed by M. Allouache, 1994)

WEEK SIXTEEN: December 3-7 (Read Naylor, pp. 247-251)
The Maghrib at a Global Crossroad: An “Arab Spring”
  Monday, Sidi Bouzid and the Tunisian Revolution of 18 December 2010/14 January 2011
  Wednesday, Reading Discussion: “A Tunisian Girl,” blog of Lina ben Mhenni 2009-Present (http://atunisiangirl.blogspot.com/)
  Friday, Conclusion and Final Review

***FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 12, 2:00-5:00 pm***