

# Tunisia

## Emerging Identities in North Africa

Examine the dynamics between modernity and tradition, technology and culture, history and social change at the site of Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution.

## Coursework

**Please note:** This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit [www.sit.edu/TNC](http://www.sit.edu/TNC) for details.

### Emerging Identities in North Africa Seminar

MDES 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine the intersections among Western-style capitalism, increased globalization, and the social and economic developments of Tunisia in the context of political change and the birth of a new nation. Lecturers are academics from Tunis University and members of civil society.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Tunisian Culture and Society*

Contemporary Tunisian society; emergent political processes; history and colonial legacies; development of the modern Tunisian state; the Maghreb Union (UMA); multilingualism; women's rights; secularism versus Islam; Arab nationalism; the impact of mass tourism on local culture.

#### *Mass Media and Popular Culture*

Social media and popular protest in the Arab world; the *Al-Jazeera* phenomenon and North African audiences; the West in the Arab press; Star Wars in Tunisia; media censorship and the public sphere; Islam online.

#### *Youth and Identity Issues*

Youth activism and political participation; unemployment and youth discontent; youth and Islam; alienation versus integration; changing family dynamics; technology and blogging; consumerism; urbanization and the *hittistes*; hip-hop culture and social expression; youth and emigration; gender perceptions.

#### *Social Movements and Identity in North Africa*

Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution and repercussions in the Arab world; Islamist movements in North Africa; popular protests; the rise of the FIS (Front Islamique de Salut) in Algeria; the state and Islam; feminist movements in Tunisia and Morocco; human rights movements in North Africa; identity, social change, and conflict in Libya; ethnicity and national identity in the Maghreb.

### 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 Tunisia'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 Nabeul, the ceramics capital of the country; and Hammamet, a popular holiday resort, where students observe firsthand the impact of mass tourism on traditional lifestyles.

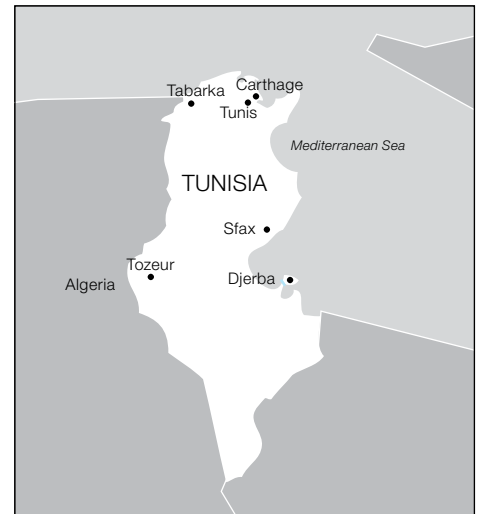
### Intensive Language Study: Arabic

ARAB 1000-3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours  
Students who choose Modern Standard Arabic focus on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom instruction. Students are placed in beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing. In addition, all students complete a short course of colloquial Tunisian Arabic to promote daily communications, with further reinforcement in homestays and field visits.

OR

### Intensive Language Study: French

FREN 1000-3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours  
Students who choose French focus on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field-based instruction. Students are placed in beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing. At the beginning and intermediate levels, the course integrates a variety of local media to understand the unique role of French language in Tunisia. The advanced course combines the study of literary texts by Tunisian, Algerian, and Moroccan authors with a focus on bilingualism, postcoloniality, identity, and nation building.



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Sidi Bou Said, on the outskirts of Tunis

**Language Study** Arabic

**Homestay** Greater Tunis, 7 weeks

**Other Accommodations** Hostels, research institutes, or small hotels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** None

### Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

### 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; political cartoons; identity formation through Islamic education; Arab views on national press; gender and news bias; governance and youth empowerment; Bluetooth and dating; Arab reality TV; the novel as a means of cultural expression; malls and social change; homosexuality in Islam.