

# Morocco

## Multiculturalism and Human Rights

Examine Islam as a system of thought, Morocco's political system and monarchy, and the country's place in the Middle East as well as in African, Berber, and Arab cultures.

## Coursework

### Multiculturalism and Human Rights Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine 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 Consultative Council for Human Rights, the Royal Institute for Amazighi Culture, the Central Entity for the Prevention of Corruption, the National Library, the National Observatory for Human Development, the Jewish Museum, the League of Muslim Scholars, Boujad Développement Durable, and Eauglobe.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Culture and Society*

Political and aesthetic views in daily life; musical traditions and current preferences; Morocco's educational system; dynamics of multilingualism; political actions of civil society; Berber and Arab culture; social issues; class interactions; Moroccan artisanal crafts; Moroccan folklore.

#### *Politics and Human Rights*

History of Morocco; the monarchy and modernization; Morocco's role in the Middle East and Africa; Morocco-US relations; role of social movements and civil society in Morocco's democratization process; current political challenges; human rights issues; economic globalization; media and politics; the Sahara question; dynamic between Islamic and French law.

#### *Religion*

Role of Islam in contemporary politics and daily life; secular and religious interpretations of Islam; Sufi revivals; Jihad and political Islam; extremism and terrorism; role of

religious scholars; religious brotherhoods; religious spaces; Moroccan Judaism; women and Islam.

#### *Gender Issues*

Women's roles in contemporary Morocco; conditions of women in rural and urban Morocco; *shikhats* (female performers); female space; Moroccan feminism; the Family Code (Moudawana); women in politics.

#### *Educational Excursions*

The program features excursions to the imperial cities of Meknès, Volubilis, and Fès; the Middle Atlas, the Southern Palm Tree Valleys, the Erg and Hmada deserts, the High Atlas, Marrakech, and Essaouira; Casablanca; and visits to universities and nongovernmental organizations (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, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes. Students are introduced to Moroccan Arabic (*darija*) and given opportunities for further language practice through homestays, lectures, and field visits. Introductions to Berber and Arabic calligraphy are also part of the course.

#### **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 contacts

## NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Rabat

**Language Study** Arabic

**Homestay** Rabat, 8 weeks

**Rural Visit/Homestay** Bejaad region in central Morocco, 1 week

**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.

and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal.

#### **Independent Study Project**

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Rabat or in another approved location in Morocco appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** Islam in daily life; Moroccan music and architecture; cultural importance of cooking; informal economy; rural development projects; multilingualism; political pluralism; NGOs in Morocco; rural schooling; HIV/AIDS in Morocco; adoption in Islam; Moroccan traditional dress; social organization among tanners; rural development; the Sahara question; Moroccan views of the outside world.