Sample Syllabus #2:

PO 383: Politics of Modern North Africa
Summer Session 2, 2012
CAS 225

Instructor:
Jillian Jaeger
232 Bay State Road
Room 312 D
Office Hours: M,T 11am-12:30pm; W,TH 9am-10am
jnjaeger@bu.edu

DESCRIPTION

This course examines the colonial and postcolonial experiences of North Africa in the context of the region’s close connections to Europe, the Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa. The goal of the course is to provide a thorough introduction to North African societies and politics. The Maghreb (the “farthest west” in Arabic)—encompassing Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya—is strategically important in regards to issues of migration, political Islam, the Western Sahara question, and trade relationships. Throughout the course, we will explore the interconnectedness of economic, political, and cultural phenomena. Additionally, we will consider the ways in which portrayals of history and culture have been politically charged and contested in both colonial and postcolonial contexts. Please note that this class will not cover Egypt, which tends to be closely covered in other Middle Eastern history classes at BU.

STRUCTURE, REQUIREMENTS, AND GRADES

The class is a reading and discussion-intensive seminar. Students are expected to participate actively and to prepare occasional presentations on selected readings and current events in the Maghreb. Failure to attend classes will result in deductions from the final course grade. Although there will be no final paper, there will be a formal presentation on a topic related to class content. Students must receive instructor’s approval before moving forward with their presentation topic. There are three required texts (listed below); however, most of the readings are journal articles or book chapters that will be posted on the course website for student access.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

• Attendance & Participation: 15%
• Final Exam: 30%
• Formal Presentation: 30%
• News summaries: 25%

Required Books:

• Paul Bowles, The Spider House

OUR SCHEDULE

Week One: Introduction and the Colonial Era

July 2nd, Introduction, Geography, and Pre-colonial History
• Naylor, North Africa, Introduction, Chapters 4 & 5 (skip 131-137 on Egypt)

Note: July 4th: No Class, Holiday
**SAMPLE SYLLABUS**

**Jillian Jaeger**

**July 6th:** (Substitute Wednesday Schedule) The Colonial Era
- Naylor, North Africa, Chapter 6 (skip 143-152 on Egypt)

**Week Two: Decolonization and Experiments in Nation-building**

**July 9th:** Decolonization
- **News Summaries**
- Paul Bowles, *The Spider House* (entire novel)
- Naylor, North Africa, Chapter 7 (skip 169-175 on Egypt)
- Film: *Battle in Algiers* (in class, 2 hrs)

**July 11th:** Forging Nations
- Naylor, North Africa, Chapters 8 (skip 193-103 on Egypt) & 9
- **Cultural Day: Morocco**

**Week Three: Political Systems, Opposition Movements, and Economic Peril**

**July 16th:** Challenges to Authoritarianism & Liberal Autocracy
- **News Summaries**
- Cavatorta, Francesco. “‘Divided they Stand, Divided they Fall’: Opposition Politics in Morocco,” *Democratization* 16:1 (Feb 2009), pp. 137-156.

**July 18th:** Limited Experiments in Democratization
- **Cultural Day: Algeria**

**Week Four: Islam in the Maghreb**

**July 23rd:** An Introduction to Islam
- **News Summaries**
- Ayoob, Mohammed. *The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World*

**July 25th:** Islamic Movements in the Maghreb
• Cultural Day: Libya

**Week Five: Developments and Projections for the 21st Century**

*July 30th:* Relations with the West: Economics, Migration, and the War on Terrorism  
*•**News Summaries*  
• *Migration and the Maghreb.* The Middle East Institute Viewpoints (Washington D.C., May 2010).  

*August 1st:* Revolution in North Africa?  
• Naylor, *North Africa,* Conclusion  
*•**Cultural Day: Tunisia

**Week Six: Wrap Up**

*August 6th:* Presentations, Review for Final

*August 8th:* Final Exam