IDS 203A05: Nations and Narration Amali: Africa (3 credits)
North African Crime Fiction
*This course is taught entirely online*

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Howell, Associate Professor of French & Francophone Studies
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Prerequisites
COM 110; ENG 101

Catalog Description
Constriction of national identities from cultural, philosophical, religious, and political empires using narrative discourse as a lens.

Course Description
This course focuses on crime fiction produced in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Crime fiction emerged as a recognized literary genre in the mid-nineteenth century. Among its founding authors are Edgar Allan Poe (American, Murders of the Rue Morgue, 1841), Émile Gaboriau (French, L’Affaire Lerouge, 1865), and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (British, A Study in Scarlet, 1887). If authors have exploited crime and crime investigation as common literary tropes since the Romantic period (e.g., Victor Hugo’s Les Misérables), it was not until Poe, Gaboriau, and Doyle that various, previously disparate elements would come together to constitute what is now known as crime fiction.

As a narrative model, crime fiction is identified by its reference to an institutionalized social practice (the police investigation) and by its formulaic nature (e.g., crime fiction allows for an infinite number of variations based on a well-defined literary/cinematic “formula”). Despite the common assumption that crime fiction is an inferior literary/cinematic genre, writers/filmmakers have endeavored to renew this model via a series of generic infractions and distancing from the genre’s foundational attributes. Instead of relegating crime fiction to the margins, this course endeavors to use this narrative form to help students gain a clearer understanding of North Africa’s historical, political, socioeconomic, and cultural foundations.

Required Novels & Films – Primary Sources (in order of presentation)


10. All additional readings and documentaries (secondary sources) are available on ReggieNet, online (links are provided), or on Kanopy.

### Course Requirements

1. **Unit Quizzes 40%**
2. **Midterm Exam 30%**
3. **Final Exam 30%**

### Your Assignments in Detail

1. **Unit Quizzes (4 @ 10% each = 40%)**: Unit quizzes consist of true-false and multiple-choice questions. They are to be completed and submitted on ReggieNet by the dates and times indicated on the syllabus.

2. **Midterm Exam (30%)**: You are expected to read all the assigned readings and study the material well in preparation for the midterm exam, which consists of short-answer questions. This exam constitutes 30% of your final grade and must be completed and submitted on ReggieNet by the date and time indicated on the syllabus.

3. **Final Exam: (30%)** You are expected to read all the assigned readings and study the material well, in preparation for the final exam, which consists of short-answer questions. This exam constitutes 30% of your final grade and must be completed and submitted on ReggieNet by the date and time indicated on the syllabus. The final exam is not comprehensive; it only covers material studied after the Midterm Exam.

### Course Policies and General Expectations

1. Be respectful.
2. Ask questions when needed.
3. Work with integrity.
4. Do not assume that late work will be accepted or make-up exams administered.
5. Learn something new, and have fun!

### New Student Technology Training

Students new to campus will be registered for a free ReggieNet course site called "Introduction to Technology at Illinois State." It features brief tutorials on several campus digital resources, including ReggieNet, Office 365, and much more. You can also find help accessing online
resources through the Technology Quick Start Guide. If you need assistance using technology at Illinois State, contact the Technology Support Center at ITHelp.IllinoisState.edu.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. All work is to be appropriately cited when it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and unacknowledged collaboration on any work, or the presentation of someone else’s work, is plagiarism. In certain circumstances, I may be required to refer violations to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Student Access and Accommodations

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the website at StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu.
“Suggested” Course Schedule

N.B.: The schedule is organized according to region and theme. Since this course is online, you may work through the material at your own pace. Please keep in mind, however, that quiz and exam dates are not flexible. All assignments must be submitted by the due dates and times listed below.

Unit 1: The Maghreb, Representation, & Arab Crime Fiction

➔ January 13-17: Introduction to IDS 203A05 and MENA


4. Unit 1 Discussion Questions – Week 1

   N.B.: Each unit includes a set of discussion questions available on ReggieNet. They are not assignments but rather serve as study guides for all quizzes and exams. For this reason, no keys are provided. However, please don’t hesitate to ask for help if you can’t find all of the answers!

➔ January 20-24: Representing the Arab Other in the West


4. “Happy Videos”: Pharrell Williams - Happy (We Are from Morocco) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOOlFOildI0&list=RDKOOlFOildI0&start_radio=1&t=0; Pharrell Williams - Happy (We Are from Algiers) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr3-6H6P6Ng; Pharrell Williams - Happy (We Are from Tunis) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GU6u_cbnWn0

5. Unit 1 Discussion Questions – Week 2

➔ January 27-31: Arab Crime Fiction


5. Unit 1 Discussion Questions – Week 3

6. **Unit 1 Quiz due Friday, January 24, 2020 @ 11:59 pm.**

**Unit 2: Morocco**

► **February 3-7: Introduction to the Kingdom of Morocco & Moroccan Noir**


4. Unit 2 Discussion Questions – Week 4

► **February 10-14: The Years of Lead**


2. Fadel, Youssef. *A Rare Bird Flies with Me*. Translated by Jonathan Smolin, Hoopoe, 2016. (Book for purchase)

3. Unit 2 Discussion Questions – Week 5

► **February 17-21: Mediterranean Migration & the Harraga Phenomenon**


5. Unit 2 Discussion Questions – Week 6

6. **Unit 2 Quiz due Friday, February 21, 2020 @ 11:59 pm.**

→ February 24-28: Midterm

1. **Midterm Exam (Units 1 + 2) due Friday, February 28, 2020 @ 11:59 pm.**

**Unit 3: Algeria**

→ March 2-6: Introduction to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria


3. Unit 3 Discussion Questions – Week 8

→ **March 9-13: Spring Break!**


1. *French Invasion of Algeria: 1830*. Episode 31 of *Turning Points in Middle Eastern History*, The Great Courses. 2016. (Kanopy)


5. Unit 3 Discussion Questions – Week 9
→ March 23-27: Albert Camus & French Imperialism


3. Unit 3 Discussion Questions – Week 10

→ March 30-April 3: “The Empire Writes Back”


4. Unit 3 Discussion Questions – Week 11

5. **Unit 3 Quiz due Friday, April 3, 2020 @ 11:59 pm.**

Unit 4: Tunisia

→ April 6-10: Introduction to the Republic of Tunisia


3. Unit 4 Discussion Questions – Week 12

→ April 13-17: The Jasmine Revolution


6. Unit 4 Discussion Questions – Week 13

➔ April 20-24: Arab Feminisms (I)


2. *Feminism Inshallah: A History of Arab Feminism*. Dr. Feriel Ben Mahmoud, 2014. (Kanopy)


5. Unit 4 Discussion Questions – Week 14

➔ April 27-May 1: Arab Feminisms (II)


3. Unit 4 Discussion Questions – Week 15

4. **Unit 4 Quiz due Friday, April 24, 2020 @ 11:59 pm.**

➔ May 4-8: Finals

1. **Final Exam (Units 3 + 4) due Friday, May 8, 2020 @ 11:59 pm.**