

HISTORY 440

THE MAGHRIB: NORTH AFRICA UNDER ISLAM

Semester II 1989-90

Prof. Humphreys
Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30-10:45
Humanities 1101

I. Course Description

In this course we will survey the political and social evolution of Northwest Africa (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco) -- known to the Arabs as the Maghrib, "the West" -- from late Roman times (ca. 550 A.D.) down to the end of the French Empire in 1962. The richness and complexity of North African history will compel us to focus on a few crucial moments: the Arab conquests and the beginnings of Islamization; the Berber revolts of the eleventh and twelfth centuries; the apogee of traditional Islamic culture in the fourteenth century; the emergence of the Barbary republics and the Sultanate of Morocco in the seventeenth century; the imposition of French hegemony and its abrupt collapse in modern times. We will also note certain recurrent themes: North Africa as a favorite target for external empire-builders; conflict and acculturation between Berbers and Arabs; the persistent tension between central authority (the "city") and local autonomy (the "desert"); Islam and its adaptations in disparate socio-cultural environments.

II. Course Requirements

It is recommended that every undergraduate take this course for four credits, since there will be no distinction between three- and four-credit workloads.

The following requirements apply to all undergraduates:

1. A short paper (ca. 1200 words) on an assigned topic, due on TUESDAY, MARCH 6.
2. Either a second paper, of 2500-3000 words, on an assigned topic; or a short research paper of the same length, on a topic of your choice. If you wish to do the second option, please consult with me on a topic -- glorified book reports or paraphrases of encyclopaedia articles are of course not acceptable.
Due Date: MONDAY, MAY 1
3. A final exam.

The requirements for graduate students will be individually negotiated, though all grad students must take the final exam.

III. Assigned Readings

The following items should be purchased:

Jamil Abun-Nasr, A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period

Ibn Khaldun, The Muqaddimah

Alistair Horne, A Savage War of Peace -- if we can locate enough copies. The book is currently out-of-stock with no date. We have located about thirty copies so far. If no further copies can be obtained, I will assign an alternative option.

A xerox copy of Roger LeTourneau, Fez in the Age of the Marinids, can be purchased at Kinko's, pending receipt of permission from the University of Oklahoma Press.

IV. Schedule of Class Meetings

A. Introduction and Overview

READINGS, SECTION A:

Abun-Nasr, 1-25

1. (Jan. 23) Initial Meeting
2. (Jan. 25) The Main Problems of North African History
3. (Jan. 30) The Lands and Peoples of North Africa: a Visual Introduction
4. (Feb. 1) Economy and Society in Contemporary North Africa

B. From Rome to Islam

READINGS, SECTION B:

Abun-Nasr, 26-59, 71-75

5. (Feb. 6) North Africa in the Orbit of Rome
6. (Feb. 8) The Rise of Islam: from Arabian Cult to World Empire
7. (Feb. 13) The Arab Conquest of North Africa and Spain
8. (Feb. 15) A Land of Dissidence: Berber Nativism, Kharijism, and Shiism

9. (Feb. 20) Spain under the Umayyad Dynasty (756-1030)

C. THE BERBER EMPIRES

READINGS, SECTION C:
Abun-Nasr, 76-103

10. (Feb. 22) The Berber Jihad: Almoravids and Almohads
11. (Feb. 27) The Apogee and Disintegration of the Almohad Empire
12. (March 1) The Fall of Muslim Spain

D. SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN THE LATER MIDDLE AGES

READINGS, SECTION D:
Le Tourneau, 15-113
Ibn Khaldun, 35-44. 91-155

13. (March 6) Government and Society in Marinid Fez
14. (March 8) Religion and Learning in Marinid Fez
15. (March 13) Ibn Khaldun: the Development of an Intellectual
16. (March 15) Ibn Khaldun: the Dynamics of North African and Islamic History

E. THE SHADOW OF EUROPE

READINGS, SECTION E:
Abun-Nasr, 144-187, 206-219, 228-247

17. (March 27) The Barbary Republics
18. (March 29) Marabouts and Sultans: Morocco, 1500-1822

F. THE FRENCH EMPIRE

READINGS, SECTION F:
Abun-Nasr, 248-297
Horne, 23-59 (Since the readings in this section are quite
light, and Horne is very long, it would make sense to read

as far ahead as possible. It will save stress during the last three weeks of the term.)

19. (April 3) French Policy in the Mediterranean Basin and the Near East in the Nineteenth Century
20. (April 5) The Accidental Colony: the French Occupation of Algeria, 1830-1870
21. (April 10) Algeria's Integration into France, 1870-1930
22. (April 12) The Ironies of Reform: Tunisia at Mid-Century
23. (April 17) Morocco Faces the Great Powers, 1830-1912
24. (April 19) Morocco under French and Spanish Protectorate, 1912-1934

G. TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE

READINGS, SECTION G.

Abun-Nasr, 354-392

Horne, 60 - end

25. (April 24) The Islamic Reform Movement in North Africa
26. (April 26) Nationalist Movements in Tunisia and Morocco, 1934-1956
27. (May 1) Keeping the Options Open: French Policy in Algeria, 1930-1954
28. (May 3) The Algerian Revolt, 1954-1961
29. (May 8) Since Independence
30. (May 10) Summation and Review