

**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**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-1:50 pm, STV 217**E-mail:** [jthowel@ilstu.edu](mailto:jthowel@ilstu.edu)**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)**

1. Fadel, Youssef. *A Rare Bird Flies with Me*. Translated by Jonathan Smolin, Hoopoe, 2016. (ISBN-13: 978-9-7741-6754-6)
2. Hamdouchi, Abdelilah. *Whitefly*. Translated by Jonathan Smolin, Hoopoe, 2016. (ISBN-13: 978-9-7741-6751-5)
3. *Goodbye Morocco*. Dir. Nadir Moknèche. Perf. Lubna Azabal, Radivoje Bukvic, Faouzi Bensaïdi. 2012. (Available for free with Amazon Prime)
4. *Outside the Law*. Dir. Rachid Bouchareb. Perf. Jamel Debbouze, Roschdy Zem, Sami Bouajila. 2010. (Available for free on Kanopy)

5. Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*. Translated by Matthew Ward, Vintage International, 1989. (ISBN-13: 978-0-6797-2020-1)
6. Daoud, Kamel. *The Meursault Investigation*. Translated by John Cullen, Other Press, 2015. (ISBN-13: 978-1-5905-1751-2)
7. Mosbahi, Hassouna. *A Tunisian Tale*. Translated by Max Weiss, The American University in Cairo Press, 2015. (ISBN-13: 978-9-7741-6741-6)
8. *Bastardo*. Dir. Néjib Belkadhi. Perf. Issa Harath, Chedly Arfaoui, Lassaas Ben Abdallah. 2015. (Available to rent on Amazon for \$2.99)
9. *Beauty and the Dogs*. Dir. Kaouther Ben Hania. Perf. Mariam Al Ferjani, Ghanem Zrelli, Noomen Hamda, Mohamed Akkari. 2017. (Available for free on Kanopy)
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](mailto: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](http://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**

1. Hudson, L.O., et al. “The Humanities.” *Middle Eastern Humanities: An Introduction to Cultures of the Middle East*, edited by L.O. Hudson, Kendall Hunt, 2010, pp. 5-11. (ReggieNet)
2. Yom Sean. “Political Dynamics in the MENA region: democracy, authoritarianism, and history.” *Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa: Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Sean Yom, Routledge, 2020, pp. 1-38. (ReggieNet)
3. Yom, Sean. “The context of political life: geography, economics, and social forces.” *Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa: Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Sean Yom, Routledge, 2020, pp. 39-77. (ReggieNet)
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**

1. Hudson, L.O., et al. “On Stereotypes.” *Middle Eastern Humanities: An Introduction to Cultures of the Middle East*, edited by L.O. Hudson, Kendall Hunt, 2010, pp. 17-25. (ReggieNet)
2. *Edward Said on Orientalism: The “Orient” Represented in Mass Media*. Dir. Jeremy Smith, Sanjay Talrej, Sut Jhally. 1998. (Kanopy)
3. *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*. Dir. Andrew Killoy, Jeremy Earp, Mary Patierno, Sut Jhally. 2006. (Kanopy)
4. “Happy Videos”: **Pharrell Williams - Happy (We Are from Morocco)** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOOIFOilDI0&list=RDKOOIFOilDI0&start\\_radio=1&t=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOOIFOilDI0&list=RDKOOIFOilDI0&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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GU6u_cbnWn0)
5. Unit 1 Discussion Questions – Week 2

##### **→ January 27-31: Arab Crime Fiction**

1. Rzepka, Charles J. "What is Detective Fiction?" *Detective Fiction*, by Rzepka, Wiley, 2005, pp. 9-31. (ReggieNet)
2. Guyer, Jonathan. "The Arab whodunnit: crime fiction makes a comeback in the Middle East." *The Guardian*, 2 October 2014, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/oct/03/middle-east-crime-fiction-comeback-neo-noir>. Accessed 29 November 2019.
3. Qualey, Marcia Lynx. "The mysterious fall and rise of the Arab crime novel." *Aljazeera*, 28 September 2014, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/09/mysterious-fall-rise-arab-crime-201492853316789460.html>. Accessed 29 November 2019.
4. Tellenbach, Silvia. "Law, Crime, and Society in the Middle East." *Crime Fiction in and around the Eastern Mediterranean*, edited by Børte Sagaster, Martin Strohmeier, and Stephan Guth, Harrassowitz Verlag, 2016, pp. 33-44. (ReggieNet)
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

1. Lee, Jessica, et al. *Lonely Planet: Morocco*. Lonely Planet Global Limited, 2017, pp. 408-462. (ReggieNet)
2. White, Gregory W. "Kingdom of Morocco." *Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa: Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Sean Yom, Routledge, 2020, pp. 81-114. (ReggieNet)
3. Smolin, Jonathan. "Introduction: State, Mass Media, and the New Moroccan Authoritarianism." *Moroccan Noir: Police, Crime, and Politics in Popular Culture*, by Smolin, Indiana UP, 2013, pp. 1-13. (ReggieNet)
4. Unit 2 Discussion Questions – Week 4

### → February 10-14: The Years of Lead

1. Smolin, Jonathan. "Police on Trial: The Tabit Affair, Newspaper Sensationalism, and the End of the Years of Lead." *Moroccan Noir: Police, Crime, and Politics in Popular Culture*, by Smolin, Indiana UP, 2013, pp. 14-46. (ReggieNet)
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

1. Socher, Jan. "Harraga (Tanger, Morocco)." *Jan Socher Photography*, <https://www.jansochor.com/photo-blog/immigration-to-europe-from-africa>. Accessed 29 November 2019.
2. Torelli, Stefano L., Marco Ugolini, and Lorenzo Marini. "Migration through the Mediterranean: Mapping the EU Response." *European Council on Foreign Relations*, [https://www.ecfr.eu/specials/mapping\\_migration](https://www.ecfr.eu/specials/mapping_migration). Accessed 29 November 2019.
3. Hamdouchi, Abdelilah. *Whitefly*. Translated by Jonathan Smolin, Hoopoe, 2016. (Book for purchase)
4. *Goodbye Morocco*. Dir. Nadir Moknèche. Perf. Lubna Azabal, Radivoje Bukvic, Faouzi Bensaïdi. 2012. (Free with Amazon Prime)
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**

1. Layachi, Azzedine. "People's Democratic Republic of Algeria." *Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa: Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Sean Yom, Routledge, 2020, pp. 115-148. (ReggieNet)
2. Ham, Anthony, Nana Luckham, and Anthony Sattin. *Lonely Planet: Algeria*. Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd, 2007, pp. 22-65. (ReggieNet)
3. Unit 3 Discussion Questions – Week 8

→ **March 9-13: Spring Break!**

→ **March 16-20: French Algeria (1830-1962) & the Algerian Revolution (1954-1962)**

1. *French Invasion of Algeria: 1830*. Episode 31 of *Turning Points in Middle Eastern History*, The Great Courses. 2016. (Kanopy)
2. *Colonialism and the Independence Movement*. Episode 37 of *An Economic History of the World since 1400*. The Great Courses, 2016. (Kanopy)
3. *Outside the Law*. Dir. Rachid Bouchareb. Perf. Jamel Debbouze, Roschdy Zem, Sami Bouajila. 2010. (Kanopy)
4. \*Optional Film: *The Battle of Algiers*. Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo. Perf. Brahim Haggiag, Jean Martin, Saadi Yacef. 1966. (Kanopy)
5. Unit 3 Discussion Questions – Week 9

**→ March 23-27: Albert Camus & French Imperialism**

1. Said, Edward. "Camus and the French Imperial Experience." *Culture and Imperialism*. Vintage Books, 1994, pp. 169-85. (ReggieNet)
2. Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*. Translated by Matthew Ward, Vintage International, 1989. (Book for purchase)
3. Unit 3 Discussion Questions – Week 10

**→ March 30-April 3: "The Empire Writes Back"**

1. Daoud, Kamel. *The Meursault Investigation*. Translated by John Cullen, Other Press, 2015. (Book for purchase)
2. Daoud, Kamel. "Camus, rebellion and the Arab Spring." Translated by Yamina Hellal, *Financial Times Weekend Supplement (Life & Arts)*, 30 May 2015, p. 20. (ReggieNet)
3. Moaveni, Azadeh. "Meursault's mirror," *Financial Times Weekend Supplement (Life & Arts)*, 11 July 2015, p. 11. (ReggieNet)
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**

1. Benstead, Lindsay J. "Republic of Tunisia." *Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa: Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Sean Yom, Routledge, 2020, pp. 149-180. (ReggieNet)
2. Wheeler, Donna, Paul Clammer, and Emilie Filou. *Lonely Planet: Tunisia*. Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd, 2010, pp. 26-63. (ReggieNet)
3. Unit 4 Discussion Questions – Week 12

**→ April 13-17: The Jasmine Revolution**

1. Masri, Safwan M. "Prelude to Revolution." *Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly*, by Safwan M. Masri, Columbia University Press, 2017, pp. 22-37. (ReggieNet)
2. Masri, Safwan M. "If the People Will to Live." *Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly*, by Safwan M. Masri, Columbia University Press, 2017, pp. 38-51. (ReggieNet)
3. *A Common Enemy: The Future of the Arab Spring is at Stake*. Dir., Jaime Otero Romani. 2013. (Kanopy)
4. Mosbahi, Hassouna. *A Tunisian Tale*. Translated by Max Weiss, The American University in Cairo Press, 2015. (Book for purchase)

5. *Bastardo*. Dir. Néjib Belkadhi. Perf. Issa Harath, Chedly Arfaoui, Lassaas Ben Abdallah. 2015. (Available to rent on Amazon for \$2.99)
6. Unit 4 Discussion Questions – Week 13

→ **April 20-24: Arab Feminisms (I)**

1. Hudson, L.O. "A Gender Revolution?" *Middle Eastern Humanities: An Introduction to Cultures of the Middle East*, edited by L.O. Hudson, Kendall Hunt, 2010, pp. 169-172. (ReggieNet)
2. *Feminism Inshallah: A History of Arab Feminism*. Dr. Ferial Ben Mahmoud, 2014. (Kanopy)
3. Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others." *American Anthropologist* 104.3 (2002): 783-790. (ReggieNet)
4. Masri, Safwan M. "Putting Religion in Its Place." *Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly*, by Safwan M. Masri, Columbia University Press, 2017, pp. 224-242. (ReggieNet)
5. Unit 4 Discussion Questions – Week 14

→ **April 27-May 1: Arab Feminisms (II)**

1. *Beauty and the Dogs*. Dir. Kaouther Ben Hania. Perf. Mariam Al Ferjani, Ghanem Zrelli, Noomen Hamda, Mohamed Akkari. 2017. (Kanopy)
2. *Tunisian Women on Fight*. Upside Television. 2013. (Kanopy)
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.**