

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology 319.01 Fall 2012

**Ethnographic Survey of North Africa**

Block Course Sept 4 - 8

Venue: SS113

8:30-16:30

Instructor: Dr Robin Thelwall

Office: 220-4699

Email: Blackboard or: <[rthelwal@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rthelwal@ucalgary.ca)>

This course introduces the land, climate, modes of production and human diversity of North Africa, comprising the modern states of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan and Egypt. The spread of Islam and progressive Arabicisation provides a background to a number of traditional practices, especially the development and exploitation of N African varieties of Sufism. Nine specific communities are looked at in detail. 1. Urbanised Berber traders from the Sousse valley in S. Morocco; 2. The Kabyle sedentary mixed farmers of the Jurjura massif in E. Algeria, 3. The Tuareg nomads of the Hoggar massif in S. Algeria, 4. The Ait Atta sheep and goat transhumants of the High Atlas; 5. The Baggara cattle nomads of the Sudanese sahel zone; 6. The Sedentary Fur of Jebel Marra, W. Sudan and some patterns of transition to nomadism.

A number of specialist urban studies: 7. The customary legal system of Jewish communities in 17C Morocco, 8. the theocratic "city-states" of the Mzab in the S. Algerian pre-Sahara and 9. a qualitative study of betrothal customs among the Cairo poor.

Assessment (each of the six assignments counts as 10% of Final Grade)

Guides will be issued in advance for all assignments, and time in class to discuss and review your submissions,

1. Film Review: Hymns of Praise: depiction of an annual sufi pilgrimage in Morocco
2. Geography Quiz: The State names, capitals and other major cities, the major mountains and the major water systems
3. Ethnic Groups - 600 word Wiki-type entry
4. Agricultural practice: nomadism, transhumance, sedentary farming and date cultivation; 600 word Wiki-type entry
5. Religious practice: Jewish customary law and community regulation within a Muslim state; Shiism; Ibadism and Muslim Sufi structures in Morocco and Libya. – 600 word Wiki-type entry
6. The issue of "Tribe" including core power groups, cooption and inclusion, and marginalisation. Mini-essay – 1000-1500 words.

Final Essay: Take home of 2000-3000 words on a topic to be selected from a list provided.

Counts for 40% of Final Grade

Genini, Izza, 1987, Hymns of praise [videorecording] Call Number M1838 .M6 M67 1987 V.3; Holdings: 1 copy available at University of Calgary : Taylor 3rd floor - VP Arts - Video Collection

**Readings** These will be available as a course pack from the bookshop, hopefully by the beginning of August. The contents is listed here so you may access some before the pack is available.

Briggs, Lloyd Cabot, 1967, 'The Sedentary Populations' Ch. 3 in *Tribes of the Sahara* (pp. 63-105)

Bourdieu, Pierre, 1962, 'The Kabyles', Ch. 1 in *The Algerians* (pp. 1-24), Boston

Waterbury, John, 1972, *From tribesman to tradesman*, Ch. 3 in *North for the Trade: the life and times of a Berber merchant* (pp. 37-88)

Hart, David Montgomery, 1984, *a transhumanmt segmentary society*, Ch 1 of *The Ait 'Atta of Southern Morocco* (pp. 1-39)

Deshen, Shlomo, 1989, 'Individuals and *negidim*', Ch. 4 in *The mellah society: Jewish community life in Sherifian Morocco* (pp. 46-61)

Keenan, Jeremy, 1977, 'Noble-vassal relations', Ch. 3 in *The Tuareg: People of the Ahaggar*, (pp. 32-52)

Cunnison, Ian, 1966, 'Land and Movement, & Men and Cattle', Chs 2 &3 in *Baggara Arabs: Power and Lineage in a Sudanese Nomad Tribe*, (pp. 13-41)

Haaland, Gunnar, 1969, 'Economic determinants in ethnic processes', in Fredrik Barth (ed.) *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries*, Little, Brown & Co. (pp.58-73)

Wikan, Unni, 1988, 'Intrigue-spinning and the forming of alliances surrounding betrothal, Ch.6 in *Life among the poor in Cairo*, (pp. 81-95)

Alport, E.A., 1981, 'The Mzab', Ch. 6 in *Arabs and Berbers: from tribe to nation in North Africa* (pp. 141-152)

I shall also be posting a number of slide shows and notes on Blackboard about the beginning of August.

## **Structure of the Course**

Tuesday – Saturday

Mornings: 8:30 – 10:00 Lecture/presentation

10:30-11:30 Groups/open session preparing assignments/discussing essay topics

Afternoons: 12:30 – 14:00 Lecture/Presentation

14:30- 16:30 Groups/open session preparing assignments/discussing essay topics and submission of assignments.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

## **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing July also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at:

<https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

## **EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the Professional faculties Food Court and the Education Block Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.

A+	100 - 94.9%	B	79.8 - 74.9%	C-	62.8 – 58.9%
A	94.8 - 89.9%	B-	74.8 – 70.9%	D+	58.8 – 54.9%
A-	89.8 - 84.9%	C+	70.8– 66.9%	D	54.8 – 49.9%
B+	84.8 – 79.9%	C	66.8 – 62.9%	F	49.8% and below