



Chapter 5: **MOROCCAN WOMEN WRITERS**

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25/6/2018



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Introduction

- The main focus of this chapter is to address the Moroccan Women's Writing from a variety of time periods, throughout the twentieth century onwards
- To familiarize students with the representation of female experiences, and the effects of these voices and experiences being silenced.
- To enable them to explore the narrative methods women writers question and use to challenge, resist, and even subvert, and revise traditional gender roles and social expectations about female identity.



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Introduction

- By focusing on what kind of stories Moroccan women choose to tell, and what themes they have chosen to deal with over time, students will be able to determine how gender can unify women and provide them with a sense of power.
- To this end, students will be involved in examining the ongoing dialogue of Moroccan women's experiences and women's socialization to such elements of difference as class, gender, and culture.



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Outline

1. Introduction to theoretical and aesthetic questions about Moroccan women's writing.
 2. North African Narrative and Female voices
 3. Historical, social and cultural background of Moroccan women's Literature
 4. Involvement of female writers in post-colonial issues:
 5. Gender issues and critique of identity
 6. Critical methods for exploring Moroccan women's writing
- Methodology & Required Reading



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1. Introduction to theoretical and aesthetic questions about Moroccan women's writing.

- Know about the developments, themes, and narrative strategies of writing by Moroccan women and its place in the literary canon.
- Literary female figures from the Maghreb in general and Moroccan female figures in particular
- The aim of this first chapter is to address the Moroccan Women's Writings from a variety of time periods, backgrounds and genre as a means to discuss the difficulties of achieving a public voice after being silenced for so long.
- Define Moroccan women's literature and its place in the canon



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2. North African Narrative and Female voices

- Introduction to the historical and social context of Maghrebin women's writing since post-colonial period/literature
- Acquaint students to the varied range of women's lives and their concerns as represented in literature.
- Familiarize students with women's writing from a variety of genres (poetry, fiction & nonfiction)



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3. Historical, social and cultural background of Moroccan women's Literature

- Examine texts (historical, sociological, religious, literary, etc.) through the perspective of gender since post-colonial period/literature
- Precolonial Moroccan culture and women
- Between local Men's writing tradition and the western canon
- Between Moroccan women's fiction and non-fiction



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- Explore Women's writing from the Maghreb and the literary theory of diverse places and historical periods
- Develop a perspective on women's and feminist history, issues facing women today, both locally and globally
- Moroccan Women's Writers' use of the socio-cultural experiences in writing their own literature after years of marginalization



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4. Involvement of female writers in post-colonial issues:

- Deconstructing colonial discourse and criticizing the local culture
- Advocating and reassessing National identity

5. Gender issues and critique of identity

- Women's emancipation and equality in the public sphere
- Refiguring feminine identity, sexuality and the feminine body



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6. Critical methods for exploring Moroccan women's writing

- Textual methods and deconstruction
- Historical and postcolonial criticism
- Feminist criticism



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Methodology & Required Reading:

- The focus will be on Moroccan Women writers in the twentieth century and beyond
- Consider Moroccan Women's writing as a discursive space and a minority group in world literature
- Students will study a selection of fictional and nonfictional works that centre on women's lives and reflect on what it means to be a woman and a feminist from various critical perspectives—including those of sexuality, class, history, post-colonialism, public culture and modernity.
- Examples will be drawn primarily from works by Moroccan F. Mernissi and Leila Abouzid



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Methodology & Required Reading:

- Analyse literary diverse texts of Mernissi and Abouzid through the perspective of gender
- Understand how gender is socially constructed and how it operates as a site of social and political control for men and women
- Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to analyse literature and write proficient argumentative analytic essays.



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