COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prof. Khalid BEKKAOUI

Institution Name

Gender Studies Curriculum: A Step For Democracy and Peace in EU-Neighbouring Countries with Different Traditions (GeSt)


Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union
MA TITLE: Cultural Studies: Cultures, Identities and Nationhood in Morocco

Instructor:

Name: Khalid Bekkaoui
Email: bekkaoui7@hotmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Number of hours or number of credits</th>
<th>Study Form (face-to-face or online)</th>
<th>Course valid from*</th>
<th>Course valid to*</th>
<th>Course type (Obligatory /Optional)</th>
<th>Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women in Diaspora</td>
<td>2H/week</td>
<td>Face to face</td>
<td>Spring Term February</td>
<td>Spring Term June</td>
<td>Obligatory</td>
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1. **A brief description of the course**

The course is designed for MA students in Cultural Studies who validated S1. It examines the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of Moroccan women’s immigration abroad. Adopting concept of Appadurai’s “scapes”, focus is on the impact of migration impacts on the concept of womanhood and shifts relations between “homeland” and “host countries” and questions gendered national, cultural and religious identities.

2. **Objective of the course**

1. Familiarize students with major theories and concepts in gendered migration studies
2. Explore the impact of race, gender, sexuality, in the field of gendered diaspora studies
3. Improve students’ critical thinking skills and develop their oral and writing skills
4. Foster students’ intellectual independence
3. Learning outcomes

- Competence to comprehend and analyse issues related to gender
- Ability to reflect creatively on issue of gender in the context of diaspora
- Acquisition of concepts and theories to conduct research on gender in relation to diaspora

*Asterisks means optional here

4. Teaching method

- Cite the method(s) to be used for teaching the course.
- Lecture, exposes, and book reviews

5. Distribution of workload for students (i.e. lectures, seminars, individual work in hours, and total)

Work load for studies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Seminars</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>% 25</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>%100</td>
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6. Assessment

- Methods of assessment
- Percentage allocated to each method of assessment

  Written exam 50%, Seminars 25%, Assignment 25%

Course schedule

**Week 1 Introducing the Course**

Components of the course are introduced and explained

**Week 2 Approaches to Gender in Diaspora**

Introduces main theories and approaches, as well as central themes and debates

**Required reading:**


**Week 3 Gendered Islam in Diaspora Literature: The Minaret and Translator by Leila Abuleila**.
A study of diaspora literature written by Muslim women who adopt an Islamic perspective. Students as expected to read *The Minaret* and *Translator* by Leila Abuleila and reflect on the themes of love, faith, conversion, and home.

**Required reading:**

**Week 4 Monica Ali, Brick Lane (Novel and Film)**
A study of diaspora literature written by Muslim women who adopt a liberal and secular perspective. Students as expected to read Monica Ali’s novel *Brick Lane* and reflect on the themes of love, power, work, family, and home.

**Required reading**

**Week 5 Muslim Women interpretation if Islam in the West**
Review and critique of a variety of works on gendered interpretation of the sacred text

**Required readings**

**Week 6 Moroccan Immigrant Women in Europe**
Organized study of selected topics related to Muslim women in Europe: veil, women and prayer places, women religious activism, female converts, etc

**Required reading:**

**Week 7 Moroccan Immigrant Women in North America**

Organized study of selected topics in North America: veil, women and prayer places, women religious activism, female converts, etc

**Required reading:**


**Week 8 Moroccan Immigrant in the Middle East**

Organized study of selected topics related to women immigration to the Middle East.

**Required reading:**


**Week 9 Moroccan Sufi Women in the West**

Discusses Moroccan Sufi orders in Europe and America with special emphasis on the Boutchichiya and Tijaniya.

**Required reading:**


**Week 10 Return in Farida Belyazid’s film “Door to the Sky”**

Discusses secular and Islamist feminism in Farida Belyazid’s film *Door to the Sky*. Students are expected to screen the movie at home.

**Required reading:**

**Week 11 Muslim Transnational Feminist Consciousness**

Reflects on gendered identity construction in diaspora in the age of globalization.

**Required reading:**


**Week 12 Revision**

**Week 13 Exam**

**Recommended readings**


Alistair Cormack, Migration and the Politics of Narrative Form: Realism and the Postcolonial Subject in Brick Lane,” *Contemporary Literature*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (Winter, 2006), pp. 695-721


