



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Concept of MA program

CULTURAL STUDIES: CULTURES, IDENTITIES AND NATIONHOOD IN MOROCCO

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RATIONALE

The aim of the programme is to enable students to acquire critical knowledge of, and engage in, interdisciplinary analysis of the notions of culture and identity in Morocco, which will help them (1) to carry on with further research at the doctoral level and (2) to contribute to cultural debate and development in Morocco. To achieve these objectives the programme allows students to develop useful research skills and methods such as teamwork, data retrieval, collection and analysis, and techniques of presentation and conferencing; it also teaches them how to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and everyday practices by encouraging them to open up their studies onto the actual social world around them

In the undergraduate Modular Degree Prog. a number of courses related to the field of Cultural Studies have been introduced, namely:

1. Introduction to Culture
2. Cultural Studies
3. Media Studies
4. Postcolonial Literatures
5. Moroccan Youth Culture
6. Occidentalism and Orientalism

The Master Programme in Cultural Studies is meant to build on the knowledge and skills already acquired in the Modular Degree Programme.

The programme consists of interconnected and interdisciplinary Core Courses (Modules majeurs) and General/ Background Courses (Modules complémentaires). To broaden and diversify students' knowledge in a variety of fields, the programme follows a coherent interdisciplinary structure.

Hence, each semester focuses on a particular area of Cultural Studies and prepares for the next one:

Semester 1: *Introduction to Cultural Studies*

Semester 2: *Cross Cultural Encounters*

Semester 3: *Media Studies*

Semester 4: *Research*

CULTURAL STUDIES is an increasingly influential field of inquiry and research which operates on a wide range of socio-cultural forms and practices, including subculture, fine art, education, literature, mass media, consumer culture, architecture, society and many other aspects of everyday life and modes of cultural policies, and productions. By nature and definition is Cultural Studies interdisciplinary; it draws its theoretical concepts and methodological strategies from linguistics, literary theory, psychology, postcolonial studies, sociology, economics and political sciences.

This programme is designed to introduce students to current cultural theories and give them an insight into contemporary debates in a wide range of social and humanities subjects. Particular focus is placed on an interdisciplinary study of the complex interplay of culture, society, gender, media and politics and the impact of globalization on local cultures and identities.

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop their critical understanding alongside practice in selected areas of Cultural Studies and encourages them to develop their own positions vis-à-vis the critical approaches and theories presented.

But rather than merely attempting to map out theories and issues which occupy the attention of Western Cultural Studies researchers, this programme intends to re-appropriate the field of Cultural Studies through Moroccan perspectives, focusing on research areas which are deemed useful and of immediate interest and relevance to the Moroccan context.

After completion of the gender courses, successful students will acquire the following knowledge and skills:

- Familiarize with major theories and concepts in gender studies (gender and diaspora, gender and religion, gender and development, etc).
- Explore concepts related to race, gender, sexuality, education, media, family and ethnicity in the field of gender studies.
- Develop methodological and theoretical skills to conduct scientific research along with International Scientific Academic norms in Gender studies.
- Integrate theoretical, empirical and methodological knowledge acquired during the studies and demonstrate an ethical perspective in the promotion of the culture of Gender Equality in different institutions (university, family, etc).
- Acquire and apply skills of application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation to all aspects of gender studies.
- Demonstrate solid competence in communication and writing skills to disseminate the learned knowledge through their contributions as academics or as activists.
- Launch or get involved in innovative (political, social, diasporic, religious and economical) service projects, programs and/or organizations making use of principles and methods that underline interdisciplinary collaboration through the use of local, national and international financial, human and structural resources.
- Design and conduct gender based research using different and complementary data collection procedures from both quantitative and qualitative approaches to research with the hope of finding substantial arguments in support of the promotion of gender equality at the cultural, educational, economic, religious, political and social levels.
- Provide a synthetic analysis of the state of the art of local policy-making for the sake of inferring recommendations for developmental policy improvement and sustainable political, religious, economical, cultural and social development and benefitting from international policies.
- Benefit from the expertise of professionals and academics in the field of gender studies.
- Combine the theoretical and practical tools, skills and knowledge acquired in the process of evaluating one's and others' work at the academic and professional levels

Career Prospects

Interdisciplinarity in Cultural Studies also seeks to provide students with knowledge, skills critical instruments, and experience deemed valuable in today's employment market, especially in education, media, and the tourism sector. An awareness of issues of representation, media skills, and interdisciplinarity is also important in many other areas, such as business, administration, social policy, development organizations, and documentary film making. The programme allows students to develop important transferable skills such as teamwork, information retrieval and analysis, fieldwork data collection and analysis, and techniques of communication and presentation.

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

MA in Cultural Studies

Courses 2016-2017

Semester	Title of course	Teaching load
Semester 1	Language, Ethnicity and Cultural Identity in Morocco	2hours/week
S1	Theories of Culture	2hours/week
S1	Women's Movements in Morocco	2hours/week
S1	Women and Writing	33hours/week
S1	Initiation to Research	2hours/week
S1	Gender and Religion	2hours/week
Semester 2	Representing Cultural Difference	3hours/week
S2	Studies in Travel Writing	3hours/week
S2	Women in Diaspora	2hours/week
S2	Postcolonial Literatures	2hours/week
S2	Research Methodology	2hours/week
S2	Morocco Encounters with The Anglo-American World	2hours/week
Semester 3	The Arab Spring, Media and Political Change	2hours/week
S3	Moroccan Youth Culture and Urban Space	2hours/week
S3	Film Theory and Criticism	2hours/week
S3	Gender and Media Analysis	3hours/week
S3	Screening Morocco	2hours/week
S3	Research Project	2hours/week
S4	SEMINAR IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	3hours/week
	Research leading to thesis writing under the supervision of instructors	
	STAGE ou MEMOIRE	

Theoretical and practical learning ratio

	MA Cultural Studies	Course: Gender and Religion	Course: Women and Diaspora	Course: Gender and Development
Theoretical learning	30	30	30	30
Practical learning	70	70	70	70

Short descriptions of courses

Language, Ethnicity and Cultural Identity in Morocco

Students will

1. learn about Morocco's regional cultural and ethnic diversity
2. Reflect on how race and ethnicity are defined and conceptualized
3. learn how to think critically about issues related to race and ethnicity in Moroccan society
4. debate the linguistic issue in Morocco (Arabic, Tamazigh, darija, French)
5. examine the composition and diversity of Moroccan identity and culture as defined in the constitution
6. engage in the debate on national identity
7. explore how language and ethnicity shape individual identity and social experiences

'Language, Ethnicity and Cultural Identity in Morocco' examines the construction of identity and ethnicity in Morocco and how they shape and are shaped by Moroccan culture and as well as how these notions inform national identity. The course also reflects on and debates the constitution's definition of Morocco as a "A Nation whose unity is based on the fully endorsed diversity of its constituents: Arabic, Amazigh, Hassani, Sub-Saharan, African, Andalusian, Jewish and Mediterranean components."

Theories of Culture

This course intends to

1. provide a survey of major theories and theoretical schools in social anthropology.
2. examine theoretical and methodological perspectives employed by different researchers
3. elucidate a major themes and debates in social theorizing (such as questions on the nature of culture, the integration of culture and society, identity and alterity; gender, body and health, religion and rituals)
4. Introduce students to major anthropological research on Morocco

'Theories of Culture' consists of a set of readings in anthropological work on Morocco. Focus s placed on Anglo-American anthropological fieldwork on Moroccan culture and society, namely by of Clifford Geertz, Paul Rabinow, Westermarck and Ernest Gellner, Crapanzano, Dale Eickelman. The course also discusses anthropological works by

Moroccan researches such as Abdellah Hammoudi, Abdkebir Khatibi Hassan Rachik, and their critique of Western anthropology.

Women's movements in Morocco

The course aims at debating and reflecting on:

1. Women and political activism
2. Gender, the State and democracy
3. women's role in economic development
4. Gender and the discourse of modernity in Morocco
5. Gender and the labour market
6. Women's agency and mobilization
7. Women and education

“Women's movements in Morocco” introduces students to the feminist movement in Morocco through a selection of authors like Fatima Mernissi, Hind Taareji, Leila Lalami, and others. The objective is to approach the subject outside mainstream Eurocentric feminism. The course also deals with gender as a significant factor in propelling social movements, women's redefinition of the Mudawana, mobilizing women across socio-economic boundaries, women's resistance to gender-based oppression, and their participation and impact on the Moroccan Spring and political and cultural reforms in Morocco.

Women and Writing

The course aims to

1. introduce students to various modes of writing by women
2. develop their skills in reading texts by women
3. reflect on how Arab women literary writers choose to represent themselves and their culture and society
4. discuss female tradition of oral story telling

“Women and writing” course examines both women's production and consumption of writing as well as specific representations of the figure of the woman writer herself. The selected texts include main Arab women writers such as Hanan al-Shaykh, Nawal El Saadawi, Fatima Mernissi, Ghada Samman, Laila Lalami, and Leila Abuzeid allow for a wide range of issues to be explored, including formal innovation, identity formation and the interaction of gender, race

and class within the practices of Arab women writings. The focus will be on giving the student insight into, and understanding of, key cultural and theoretical issues regarding works by women writers.

Initiation to Research

The seminar aims at

1. Introducing students to basics and conventions of doing research in Cultural Studies, techniques and methodologies of field-work (formulating research questions and designing and conducting interviews), data collection and analysis.
2. providing students with the tools and skills required to understand research terminology and assess published research
3. Familiarising students with the MLA style and the use of library and the Internet for research purposes
4. helping them to produce quality argumentative writing and express their point of views and ideas clearly and convincingly.

Initiation to Research intends to achieve two things:

- 1 teach students research skills, including data collection (interviewing and questionnaires) and analysis and interpretation of the information. Focus is placed on developing the skills and knowledge needed to design and conduct research and develop their projects into written theses.
2. help students to express their ideas and opinions clearly and effectively, respond to complex lines of argument convincingly and articulate their comments clearly and persuasively.

They are required to write short essays to put research competencies and techniques into practice and are given the opportunity to enhance both their research abilities and oral performance in a variety of activities such as presentations, group discussion, and study-days.

Gender & Religion

This course explores gender-related perspectives in the study of religion in Morocco. The course is divided into three parts:

1. Moroccan Islamic Feminism: Theoretical Mappings
2. The Body and sexuality in Islam

3. Gendering Political Islam

The first component of the course, “Moroccan Islamic Feminism”, examines various gendered approaches to Islam in Morocco: secular/spiritual and Salafi/ Sufi feminism. The second component of the course is a study of the configuration of the body and sexuality in the religious discourse in contemporary Morocco. The third component focuses on the Moroccan State’s deployment of gender to restructure the religious field through the Murshidat and Alimat and on how such a deployment impacts both radical Islam and patriarchal ideologies and norms.

Major topics:

1. Moroccan State’s deployment of gender to restructure the religious field
2. Feminist scholars’ interpretation of the sacred text and spiritual spaces
3. Configuration of 'feminine' and sexuality in religious discourse
4. Feminist Salafism in Sufism
5. Ideologies of gender and sexuality in Islam

The programme outcomes:

1. Acquire the necessary theoretical and methodological skills and knowledge to explore gender and religion
2. Develop the theoretical and methodological tools to undertake research in the field of gender and religion
3. Familiarize students with the debate on gender and religion in Morocco and the Islamic world
4. Develop students’ oral communication and writing skills
5. Enhance in-depth knowledge about feminist approaches in the study of Islam

Representing Cultural Difference

1. Introduces students to current theories in Postcolonial Studies: Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Peter Hulme, Sara Mills and others
2. Explores such theories in the analysis of racial and cultural difference in texts and visual arts
3. Provides students with the necessary theories and methodology to detect the circulation of alternative and anti-hegemonic discourses in Western representation of Otherness
4. Develops students’ critical thinking

The course is designed to introduce theories of representing cultural difference from Edward Said's Orientalism to Homi Bhabha's Ambivalence and to apply these approaches to the reading of a selection of Western narratives on the Maghreb, Latin America and Asia.

The course approaches in an interdisciplinary way and explore them in the study of a number of issues related to race, empire, geographical and cultural spaces, politics of identity and cultural difference, power, knowledge, and resistance.

Studies in Travel Writing

The course

1. stresses interdisciplinarity and raises a variety of issues such as colonialism, race, cultural geography and space.
2. helps students acquire methods of colonial text analysis
3. Introduces students to postcolonial strategies of reading
4. develops students' critical thinking and historical awareness.
5. develops students' writing skills
6. help students understand the bases of historical, cultural, and political encounters between the colonizer and the colonized countries with more particular focus on Morocco

'Studies in Travel Writing' focuses on Anglo-American travel literature on Morocco and cultural representation. It emphasises the interdisciplinary value of travel writing, bringing together the methods of geography, history, anthropology, post-colonial, cultural and gender studies. Through a selection and close reading of a set of travel narratives on Morocco, students will be initiated to issues of race, space, identity, gender, power, knowledge and colonial encounters.

Women in Diaspora

This course examines the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of Moroccan women's immigration to the West and Middle East. Focus is placed on how the experience of migration impacts on the concept of Moroccan womanhood and shifts relations between "homeland" and "host countries". The course is also interested in exploring how Moroccan women in diaspora try to negotiate their national, cultural and religious identities as well as their sense of belonging and cultural ties to their homelands.

The outcomes of the course are as follows:

1. Familiarize students with major theories and concepts in gendered migration studies

2. Explore the impact of race, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity in the field of gendered diaspora studies

3. Improve students' critical thinking skills

4. Develop students' oral and writing skills

5. Foster students' intellectual independence

Acquire the skills necessary for critically analyzing the theme of gender and diaspora in film and literature.

Course topics include

1. The issues of the veil will be addressed.

2. Films and novels related to Moroccan gender and diaspora

3. Digital gendered Diasporas

4. Digital misalliance

5. Homeland, nostalgia and gendered memory

6. Identities in diasporas: gender, sexuality, and ethnicity

7. Racism, stereotyping and xenophobia

Postcolonial Literatures

Objectives of the module:

1. Provide the students with background knowledge relating to Post-colonial theory and literatures.

2. demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in literature.

3. respond critically to works of literature.

4. to demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature on intercultural

Post-colonial Literatures will introduce students to Post-colonial literature and theory. We will read a number of the most influential theorists of post-colonial studies, as well as a selection of contemporary postcolonial literary texts. We will first explore what the term 'post-colonial' means in various historical and geographical contexts, and we will address critical issues such as nation and nationalism, multiculturalism, capitalism and globalisation, race, ethnicity, historiography etc. The readings will be drawn from a range of locations such as Morocco, Algerian, Palestine, India, Nigeria, and the Caribbean.

Major Topics

1. subaltern voices

2. writing Back against Literary Presentations of Africa

3. pan-African Education in Ghana via Ama Ata Aidoo

4. the Diaspora via Peter Abrahams
5. postcolonial deconstruction colonial constructions of knowledge and power
- 6 anti-colonial struggles against subordination

Research Methodology

1. the aim of this module is to consolidate the students' competence in research techniques (data collection, argumentation, bibliography).
2. equip students with the necessary skills for organising and writing up their research projects
- 3 help students design a research proposal and develop research questions

The course offers an overview of the different approaches and challenges involved in academic research. It initiates students in field work using interviews, surveys and experiments, explores methods used in critical analysis of texts (discourses) and focuses on approaches as mythological tools for discourse analysis

Morocco Encounters with the Anglo-American World

The module surveys the historical, commercial, diplomatic and cultural encounters between Morocco and the Anglo-American world. It stresses interdisciplinarity and raises a variety of issues such as colonialism, race, cultural geography and space.

The course is taught in Arabic. It provides a survey of the historical, commercial, diplomatic, political and cultural encounters between Morocco and the Anglo-American world. It studies through interdisciplinary perspectives British and American perceptions and constructions of Morocco in a wide range of discourses in anthropology, literature, historical and diplomatic documents, and popular culture. The course offers ample opportunities to introduce current theories in Postcolonial Studies and explore them in the study of a number of issues related to race, geographical and cultural spaces, politics of identity and cultural difference, power, knowledge, and resistance. Moroccan construction of Otherness is also considered against theories of Occidentalism. Some of the issues the course will deal with are formulated in the list of topics.

THE ARAB SPRING, MEDIA AND POLITICAL CHANGE

This course

1. provides context for understanding the social, economic and political conditions that led to the Arab Spring

2. analyses the role of social media in empowering and mobilizing people to organize demonstrations

3. examines how Arab youth protestors use social media as a means for shaping public opinion and narratives discusses the use of the media by the State to undermine social protests.

‘The Arab Spring, Media and Political Change’ analyzes the production and circulation of the discourse on political change. The course explores the role media, especially facebook and mobile telephony, has played in the Arab uprising. It also pays close attention to how political change in the Arab world is a highly mediated experience the world over, which calls for the development of adequate critical approaches that can best deal with the subject at hand.

Moroccan Youth Culture and Urban Space

Objectives: the course aims to

1. enable students to apply key interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives (anthropological, postcolonial, critical, cultural studies, discourse and power) to the analysis of Moroccan youth cultures

2. equip them with the ability to analyze diverse Moroccan youth cultures and their multiple influences on society and culture

3. examine spatial and gender dynamics in the fashioning of Moroccan youth cultures.

4 help students identify and analyze the impacts of global media and international processes on youth cultures and identities

5. analyse youth’s interaction with urban spaces

6. reflecting on culture & identity in postcolonial urbanity in Morocco.

,Moroccan Youth Culture & Urban Space’: The university is a youth space *par excellence*, and yet we rarely design up courses that are for and about young Moroccans. So this course remedies this lacuna by examining the contribution of youth cultural movements to a changing sociality in Morocco. It examines the nature and forms of youth culture in Morocco’s urban spaces, especially in the big cities like Casablanca, Fez and Marrakech. It aims at exposing to the students some basics of methodology in social research in the context of studying the forms of youth culture such as clothing, music and other youth lifestyles as the interface of global flows and local culture.

The course is organised in terms of (a) close readings of representations about youth in book and video and (b) follow-up discussions and practical work presented by each student. For the students have to give individual presentations in class about field work they are required to do about how Moroccan youths’ self-representation, look at society and dream of their future lives.

Course outline includes:

1. Key concepts, terminologies, theoretical perspectives and methods used to study youth
- 2 Relationships between economic processes, media representations, urban space and the production of youth cultures
- 3 Youth and religious identifications
4. Unemployed Youth diploma holders and urban protest
5. Who controls the public space: Youth or State?
6. How Moroccan youths reinforce, challenge, debate, and reinvent social, cultural, and national values
7. Youth's negotiation of social justice, human rights, and democracy
8. University and students' political activism
9. Understanding analyzing Media representation of Moroccan youth
10. Veiling or unveiling: religious identification in the urban space
11. Youths and educational reform
12. Gender and sexuality in the public and in cyber space

Film Theory and Criticism

Objectives: the course aims to

1. study cinema, an art form which has become a global phenomenon with a far reaching influence on society and culture
2. familiarize students with the major theoretical positions and debates in film theory including deconstruction, existentialism, Marxism, phenomenology, and psychoanalysis
3. give students the critical and analytical tools necessary to develop their ability to close read and interpret films
4. develop students' ability to identify meaningful elements in a film text and produce critical arguments about them.
5. teach students to understand of how cinema works as a medium, art form and practice
6. how cinema signifies: produces and communicates meanings
7. understand the processes involved in film production and circulation

,Film Theory and Criticism' is designed to offer an introduction to the study of film through a survey of the major theories of reading movies. Critical focus shifts from conventional debates about cinema in terms of whether it is an art or a means of social commentary to contemporary readings which broach cinema as a cultural form. Students will be given opportunities to learn

about film through class participation, reading texts and articles, writing a paper, and critiquing films.

Recommended movies include: Frozen River, English Patient, London River, Anna and the King, Zulu etc.

Course outline:

Film Genres, Language and narratives

Cinematography & film production.

Film analysis: themes, worldviews, and propaganda

Film criticism & interpretation.

Film theory

Film and Mass Culture

Gender and Media Analysis

Course provides students with concepts, approaches and methodology to be able to do the following:

1. Recognize diversity across audiences, content and producers of media
2. Identify stereotypes of gender and sexual identity in media representation
3. Analyze media discourse in context of cultural and social identities
4. Analyze how reality is socially and discursively constructed by media

„Gender and Media Analysis“ examines representations of race, class, gender, and sexual identity in the media (film, television, print journalism, advertising). It looks at the coverage of the private and public lives as well as the configuration of the female body in American, British and Moroccan media. Issues such as masculinity/femininity, beauty, virginity, marriage and motherhood are debated. Media representations are approached as a site for the reinvention and redefinition of gender roles, the body, sexuality, and subjectivity.

Course topics:

1. News: Texts, Institutions,
2. Authorship and spectatorship
3. Images, Representation, Language and Ideology
4. Media, Culture and Society
5. Representation of Femininity in visual discourse
6. Global Media: Global Culture and Cultural Identities
7. Gendered Visual Orientalism
8. Narrating the nation in the Moroccan television

9. Sexuality in soap operas

Screening Morocco

1. The course introduces students to Orientalism in Hollywood cinema on Morocco and how Moroccan cinema deconstructs such orientalism.
2. Students will acquire the skills of interpret films to interweave visual and the ideological as a means of explaining how representations of the Orient/Other and Self/Morocco were shaped and received.
3. Have a broad understanding of the issues and the theoretical debates surrounding the subject and filmic representation.

Through a detailed analysis of a selection of Moroccan films and Western films on Morocco, the course reflects on the aesthetic and politics of representing Selfhood and Otherness on the silver screen. Students will have the opportunity to screen and study a wide range of films and television material, including fiction and documentary (*Badis, Door to The Sky, Ali Zawa, Zidou al Gouddam, The Wind and the Lion, Ishtar, Sahara, Casablanca* etc). For their research projects, each student is expected to produce a short film (in documentary form). The Moroccan Cultural Studies Centre to which most of the Master Programme staff are affiliated has the appropriate equipments for such a project.

Course topic: politics of representation

Research Project

In this module students start their MA research project under the supervision of an instructor from the Master Programme. In this semester each student will have to choose a research topic, collect data, compile a relevant bibliography and write a detailed proposal and outline.

Final thesis

Writing a final thesis

- Initiation into doctoral research

The requirements for this module consist of writing a final thesis (80-100 pages) that is based on the work done in module 6 (semester 3) with the help of a supervisor from the master program. This work should reflect the techniques and skills of research that the student has been able to acquire from previous modules on research methodology, as well as it may equip him/her with competence needed for further doctoral studies. The thesis should be submitted in early May for committee examination, and the same committee can schedule a defence in late May.

Gender and Development. Research Seminar.

This seminar tackles human development and gender related issues. Research and themes to be undertaken are embedded within the theories analyses elaborated to sort out problems having to do with development (Human, social, cultural, economic, political, etc.) in relation to Gender studies in Morocco and other Arab countries. This module, taught in the form of a number of seminars, provides students with the methodological and theoretical skills to be able to do the following:

1. Conduct scientific research along with International Scientific Academic norms in Gender and Development domain.
2. Thinking of a topic
3. Data collection and analysis
4. Theories and methodology in Gender and development research
5. Ethical Practices in Gender and Development Research
6. Encourage fieldwork research on the representations of women at the economic, legal, political and cultural levels.

Research areas includes:

1. Gender and Law
2. Gender and Representations (Socio-cultural)
3. Gender and ethnicity
4. Gender and Immigration
5. Gender and Employment
6. Gender and Leadership
7. Gender and Policy Making
8. Gender and Civil Society.