

California State University, Chico  
Department of History

**HIST/MEST 362: The Middle East to 1800**

**Study Abroad: Summer 2020**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Najm al-Din Yousefi
<b>Office location:</b>	211 Trinity Hall
<b>Telephone:</b>	(530) 898-5386
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:nyousefi@csuchico.edu">nyousefi@csuchico.edu</a>
<b>Office hours:</b>	NA
<b>Class days and times:</b>	See the schedule on p. 5
<b>Classroom:</b>	Various sites, Morocco

**Course Usage of Blackboard Vista**

Copies of the course syllabus and major assignments may be found on Blackboard (Bb). You are responsible for regularly checking the online resources, which is accessed through the Chico State Portal at <http://portal.csuchico.edu>

**Course Description and Goals**

This is a Study Abroad Program with a special interest in the history and culture of the Middle East and North Africa before 1800. The program chooses Morocco as a crossroad of different civilizations and cultures. Morocco figures prominently at the intersection of Africa, Europe, and the Islamic World. It has served as a gateway to Europe where Arab and Berber warriors conquered Sicily and the Iberian Peninsula in the seventh century. Morocco has continued to function as a bridge between North Africa and Europe. It boasts a diverse culture that combines a variety of elements from Islam, Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewish culture, North African Berbers, as well as Southern France and Spain, to name a few. Students participating in this Study Abroad Program will learn about Morocco's rich culture and its complex history through site visits, lectures, and cultural exposure. They will gain direct experience of Morocco by staying with a Moroccan family and participating in cultural practices such as Hammam, making pottery, exploring souks, enjoying authentic meals, and interacting with locals on a daily basis. Lectures and discussions, coupled with close reading of primary and secondary sources, will help students catch a glimpse of the diversity of Middle Eastern religious traditions, cultural and social practices, and political systems. The course will also highlight intercultural and cross-cultural exchanges within the Middle East as well as in the global context.

***Please note that this is not a Capstone course, and students who complete it will not receive GE Capstone credit. Students wishing to receive GE Capstone credit need to take a course with a 'W' suffix to its course number, in this case HIST/MEST 362W.***

## **Student Learning Objectives**

A major objective of this course is to help students form a thorough understanding of the Middle East in terms that are germane to its long history and diverse culture. Students will learn about the **diversity** of Middle Eastern cultures, religions, social institutions, and political entities. The course will promote **critical thinking** by juxtaposing different approaches to the study of the Middle East and by encouraging students' participation in class discussions. It will further stress **global engagement** by addressing the West-Middle East relations prior to 1800 as well as cross-cultural exchanges between Middle Eastern cultures, countries, and the surrounding world.

## **Course Content Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. learn about the diversity of Middle Eastern cultures, institutions, and ways of life
2. engage in critical examination of different views concerning the Middle East
3. appreciate global engagement and contributions of Middle Eastern cultures and countries prior to 1800

## **Required Texts/Readings**

William Ochenwald and Sydney N. Fisher, *The Middle East: A History*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010 (Selected chapters available on Bb Learn).

Ira Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 299–336, 660-70 (Selected chapters available on Bb Learn).

Baladhuri, "Conquest of North Africa and Andalusia," selections from the *Book of Conquests*, 335–374 (Selected chapters available on Bb Learn).

Ibn Battuta, "Tangier," selections from the *Travels of Ibn Battuta* (Selected chapters available on Bb Learn).

Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddima: An Introduction to History* (Selected chapters available on Bb Learn).

Sharif al-Idrisi, *Book of Roger* (Selected chapters available on Bb Learn).

## **Classroom Protocol**

Please turn off your cell phone before the beginning of class. The use of electronic devices for any purposes other than course related activities is strictly prohibited. If you would like to use your laptop to take notes, you will need to sit in the front row.

## **Dropping and Adding**

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. found <http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/>. You should be aware of the new deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

Successful completion of this course depends on satisfying all of the following requirements:

1. **Active participation** in all activities, including site visits, lectures, discussion with fellow students, and interaction with local individuals.
2. **Close reading** of all the materials assigned for each topic.
3. **4 Short Reflection Essays** (600 words) to be submitted on Bb discussion board. These essays are required to reflect on the activities of each day while drawing on the course readings assigned for each day.
4. **Final Paper** (8–10 pages) to be submitted within 10 days of the completion of the program. Further instructions will be provided.

You will be graded on a 100-scale as detailed below:

Active participation in various activities, discussions, etc.	15
4 Reflection Essays (10 points each)	40
Final Paper	45
TOTAL	100

**It is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates as detailed in the schedule of readings and assignments (see pp. 5–6 below). Late assignments will not be accepted unless they are accompanied by a written medical or university-recognized excuse.**

### Grading Scale

93–100	A	80–82.99	B–	67–69.99	D+
90–92.99	A–	77–79.99	C+	63–66.99	D
87–89.99	B+	73–76.99	C	0–62.99	F
83–86.99	B	70–72.99	C–		

## University Policies and Campus Resources

### Academic integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at California State University, Chico, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct can be found at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity.shtml>.

### Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Students with

disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DSS Office (Disability Support Services) to establish a record of their disability. Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

### **Accessibility Resource Center**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Please also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. DSS will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. The Disability Support Services website is <http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/index.shtml>

### **IT Support Services (Optional)**

Computer labs for student use are located on the first and fourth floor of the Meriam Library, Room 116 and 450, Tehama Hall Room 131, and the Bell Memorial Union (BMU) basement. You can get help using your computer from IT Support Services; contact them through their website, <http://www.csuchico.edu/itss>. Additional labs may be available to students in your department or college.

### **Student Services (Optional)**

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Student services information can be found at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/current-students>.

### **Student Learning Center (Optional)**

The mission of the Student Learning Center (SLC) is to provide services that will assist CSU, Chico students to become independent learners. The SLC prepares and supports students in their college course work by offering a variety of programs and resources to meet student needs. The SLC facilitates the academic transition and retention of students from high schools and community colleges by providing study strategy information, content subject tutoring, and supplemental instruction. The SLC is online at <http://www.csuchico.edu/slc>. The University Writing Center has been combined with the Student Learning Center.

## HIST/MEST 362: The Middle East to 1800, Summer 2020

*Note: subject to change with fair notice.  
Please bring copies of the readings to class.*

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Wednesday 6/24	Travel to Merzouga Meet the ISA staff and ride to Merzouga  The Middle East and North Africa before Islam Reading: O&F, ch. 1–2; excerpts from the <i>Gilgamesh</i> (pdf on Bb) <b>Reflection Essay 1</b>
Thursday 6/25	Cultural visits in the Sahara  Islam: The Prophet Muhammad and his legacy Reading: O&F, ch. 3; Berkey ch. 2-3; Ibn Ishāq, <i>Sīra</i> , 3–6, 68–73, 111–15, 231–35 (pdf on Bb); Quran: 96, 68, 1
Friday 6/26	Travel to Marrakesh  Muslim community after Muhammad: the “Rightly-Guided” Caliphs and the Arab conquests Reading: O&F, ch. 4; Lapidus, “The Arab Conquests” 49–72; excerpts from al-Baladhuri’s <i>Conquests</i> ; <b>Reflection Essay 2</b>
Saturday 6/27	Tour of Marrakesh  Islam in North Africa; The Idrissid Dynasty and its legacy in Morocco Reading: Lapidus, <i>A History of Islamic Societies</i> , 299–336, 660–70; Sharif al-Idrisi, <i>Book of Roger</i> (available on Bb Learn)
Sunday 6/28	Day trip to Imlil. Hiking at Toubkal  Islam’s entry into Europe Reading: TBD; <b>Reflection Essay 3</b>
Monday 6/29	Travel to Essaouira  Institutions of higher learning; Ibn Khaldun and Ibn Batuta Reading: Ibn Battuta, “Tangier,” selections from the <i>Travels of Ibn Battuta</i> ; Ibn Khaldun, <i>The Muqaddima: An Introduction to History</i> (available on Bb Learn)
Tuesday 6/30	Travel to Rabbat  Religious diversity of Morocco Reading: <i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> , v.5, 1199–1203 <b>Reflection Essay 4</b>
Wednesday 7/1	Return Home. Check out of hotel, transfer to the airport to board your flight
Friday 7/ 10	<b>Final paper due. Please use Bb Learn TurnItIn to submit your paper</b>