



School of Humanities and Social Sciences

POL 355-MUL 1

Diplomacy & Human Rights in the Mediterranean 202526 J-term

Course Details

Credit Hours: 3

Days: 29 December 2024 - 16 January 2025

Time: This course carries 3 credits: 45 contact hours. Students complete readings prior to and during the program and submit their final assignment after the program, which extends the academic content of the program beyond the on-site components. Lectures and site-visits are conducted 7 days per week throughout the J-Term.

Prerequisites: None.

Important Notice: This is a traveling seminar which means that you will be on foot, on the road, in the air, and only rarely in a classroom. Your learning experience will occur in the cities, locations, and cultural sites visited. You will be in both large cities and potentially deeply rural locations. You will also be in an international environment with customs, laws, security matters, health and well-being issues and lifestyles very different from your experience at home or your university. In sum, it will be a unique learning experience for you. For all these reasons, we expect students to follow the seminar leaders' advice and recommendations and to be prepared for the traveling seminar leaders to modify the itinerary if deemed necessary and to communicate any changes to you as soon as they are known. ACM reserves the right to modify the itinerary due to issues related to global security, country- and industry-related strikes, inflated travel costs, and health and well-being issues that are specific to regions in which the seminars are scheduled to take place.

Instructor Information

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Course Description

ACM's January Term (J-Term) Traveling Seminar is a hand-on field study course designed to help students explore the economic, political, legal, and moral challenges of international human rights promotion. Lectures and reading form only a small part of this course. Our approach is to go behind the scenes of human rights debates in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa by speaking directly with the people who shape them. Traveling to various locations in southern France and across Morocco, we will visit embassies to speak with diplomats to explore the role of foreign policy; we will meet refugees to understand the extraordinary challenges of displacement and exile; we will be briefed by NGOs and witness the projects they put in place to help their communities; we will engage with activists, scholars, and journalists to appreciate how human rights discourse can shape, or stifle, debate on key issues of the day like migration and rule of law. Then we will travel to The Netherlands where we will visit the international courts – the ICC and the ICJ – and learn from legal experts about the role of international justice in protecting human rights, how the mechanisms of international law function, and why they are now under threat.

Along the way we will take time to explore and appreciate the diverse cultures of the countries in which we travel - sampling bouillabaisse in Marseille, haggling in the souks of Marrakech, and cruising the canals of Amsterdam. By visiting historical sites and museums, eating at local restaurants, and simply meeting local residents, we will gain a greater understanding of political and social challenges beyond our borders and learn to evaluate them within in their historical, geographical, and cultural contexts.

Learning Outcomes

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

- recognize the historical, cultural and political contexts of France, Morocco, and The Netherlands in order to appreciate the context of their human rights challenges;
- identify the means by which states, international institutions such as the UN and the EU, and civil society actors interact (and compete) to promote a range of human rights objectives;
- appreciate the practical realities of diplomatic recruitment, training, and day to day functioning;

- recognize how U.S. and EU foreign policy goals and other competing visions of human rights can conflict with or mutually sustain each other;
- evaluate the role of international justice in the protection and promotion of human rights, and
- engage with differing visions of human rights across different cultures.

Instructional Methods and Activities

The course will combine classroom and experiential learning approaches, including

- on-site lectures and discussions with diplomatic missions, NGOs, activists, museums, journalists, and others;
- lectures and seminar discussions; and
- reading assignments for each city visited.

Primary/Required Textbooks and Materials

Diplomacy and Human Rights Coursebook

Recommended/Optional Materials

Cosmopolitanism

Authors: Kwame Anthony Appiah

Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits

Authors: Laila Lalami

Assessment, Evaluation, and Grading

- Participation 15%
- Quizzes (3) 45%
- Final Exam 40%

Grading System/Grade Distribution

Grading System/Grade
Distribution

U.S	ACM	French Equivalent
95-100%	A	17-20
90-94%	A-	16
88-89%	B+	15

U.S	ACM	French Equivalent
84-87%	B	14
80-83%	B-	13
78-79%	C+	12
74-77%	C	11
70-73%	C-	10
68-69%	D+	9
64-67%	D	8
60-63%	D-	7
0-59%	F	0-6

Attendance

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class; it's essential that you come to class on time, be prepared for the lesson, and be ready to participate in discussions and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Any absences can harm your final grade. It will be up to the student to manage and communicate with professors about their absences. For every absence, your final grade may be lowered by one half-letter grade (B+ to become a B, B to become B-, and so on). ACM-IAU professors are empowered to impose academic sanctions (including a lowered grade or even failure) upon students for unexcused absences, frequent tardiness, work submitted late, or any other actions or behaviors that violate ACM's academic standards and policies. Students are expected to attend and participate in every scheduled event, barring sickness. Attendance will be part of your final evaluation, and any unexcused absences will reduce your mark. Students will be asked in the event of an excused absence to make up the class session or visit with a written assignment to be determined by the instructor.

Academic Policies

All students are responsible for reading, knowing, and understanding the information pertinent to their areas of study available in the ACM Catalog. The catalog contains requirements for all degree programs, course descriptions, academic policies, and regulations that govern ACM. All parts of the catalog are subject to annual changes as university rules, policies, and curricula change. It is your responsibility to keep informed of such changes; failure to do so will not exempt you from whatever penalties you may incur. Catalogs are published from August through July.

Review the latest catalog at: <https://www.acmfrance.org/academics/catalog>

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

France (29 December – 2 January)

Cities:

- Aix-en-Provence
- Marseille (day trip)

Lectures:

- What are human rights?
- Diplomacy and rights promotion
- Law, Institutions, and Global Justice
- Democracy promotion

Visits and briefings

- Camp des Milles
- US Consul General

Morocco (3-10 January)

Cities:

- Marrakech
- Rabat
- Assilah (stopover for lunch)
- Tangier
- Ceuta (day trip)

Lectures:

- The United States, Morocco, and the Arab Spring
- Freedom of the press in Morocco
- LGBTQ rights in Morocco

Visits and briefings:

- Berber village
- EU Delegation
- Fondation Orient Occident
- US Legation Museum
- Association DARNA
- EuroMed Rights

The Netherlands (11-15 January)

Cities:

- The Hague
- Amsterdam (day trip)

Lectures:

- International Criminal Law and Tribunals
- Domestic Politics of International Justice

Visits and Briefings:

- International Court of Justice
- International Criminal Court
- US Embassy
- Clingendael Academy (diplomacy training program)
- International IDEA
- Anne Frank House