

J-TERM TRAVELING SEMINAR
DIPLOMACY & HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
France, Morocco, The Netherlands

IRL/POL/HD/HRT 355

3 CREDITS (45 CONTACT HOURS)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Gregory Mose, Associate Professor of International Law & Politics, ACM-IAU
CO-INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mietek Boduszynski, Professor of Politics & International Relations,
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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.

I. ACADEMIC & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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. Travelling 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.

II. CONTACT HOURS

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.

III. 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. 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.

IV. 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

V. PRIMARY TEXTS AND RESOURCES

Students will be provided with a Diplomacy and Human Rights source book containing the required reading for the course. Most of the material should be read before departure so that you can maximize your ability to focus on our other activities and meetings. In addition to the readings, students are invited to follow current events during and in the weeks prior to the trip. A selection of suggested media outlets follows: *BBC, Al Jazeera, The Guardian, The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, The Intercept, The Daily Beast*.

Recommended reading (not required, but these books will provide insight into much of the material we will cover and enrich your experience of the course):

- Laila Lalami, *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*
- Chris Armstrong, *Why Global Justice Matters*

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING

- Participation 30%
- Quizzes (3) 30%
- Final Exam 40%

Attendance and Short Papers: 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.

Quizzes and Final Exam: There will be one quiz in each of the three segments of the trip (Morocco, Spain, France), drawing on program lectures and readings to be specified. A two-hour essay-format cumulative final exam will be administered on the last day of the program. The quality of participation during the trip can affect the grade in either direction.

Grading Scale:

A	95-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	88-89%

B	84-87%
B-	80-83%
C+	78-79%
C	74-77%
C-	70-73%
D+	68-69%
D	64-67%
D-	60-63%
F	0-59%

Plagiarism:

Submitting material that in part or in whole is not entirely one's own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source is prohibited and grounds for failure.

Accommodations:

It is IAU's goal to provide reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If students need accommodations to fully participate in this class, they must complete the IAU Wellness & Accommodations Questionnaire in their online application portal and forward all requested supporting documentation.

VII. OTHER INFORMATION

General Travel Advisory:

This trip is a serious one, both academically and culturally. Students are expected to be prepared for intellectual, linguistic, social, and travel challenges. We are traveling as a team, and each member must be prepared, punctual, cautious, and professional. With those important caveats, the trip promises to be an incredible experience, including fun and adventure.

Pre-Departure:

Leading up to departure, be sure to check your email diligently so we can get in touch with you should there be any adjustments to the program. Pre-Departure logistics and announcements will also be posted in the Diplomacy Microsoft Teams channel. We will set up a WhatsApp group to communicate during the trip.

VIII. CALENDAR (TBC)

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

- Human Impacts Institute
- US Consul General
- Collectif Agir

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
- US Embassy
- EU Delegation
- Fondation Orient Occident
- US Legation Museum

- Association DARNA

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
- International IDEA