

**J-TERM TRAVELING SEMINAR
EUROPE AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD
France, Morocco, Spain
December 29, 2025-January 16, 2026**

ARH 395/CCS 395/HIS 395/POL 395/REL 395

3 CREDITS (45 CONTACT HOURS)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Carl Jubran, President & Professor, ACM-IAU
Professor Aboubakr Jamaï, Dean of Global Affairs, ACM-IAU

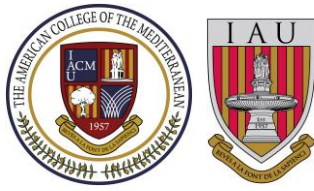
Important Notice: This is a **traveling** seminar which means that you will be on foot, on the road, in the air, and only rarely in a classroom. Your learning experience will occur in the cities, locations, and cultural sites visited. You will be in both large cities and potentially deeply rural locations. 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. IAU 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.

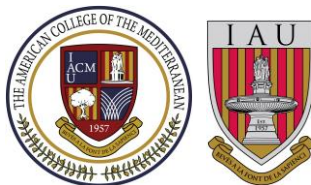
I. ACADEMIC & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Europe and the Islamic World Traveling Seminar is designed for students interested in an academically rigorous and cultural experience in Spain, Gibraltar, and France. The academic component consists of a series of briefings from leading European academic, literary and political personalities and experts on the European relationship with the Islamic world. Participants will spend 18 nights in 11 cities and will attend daily lectures and meetings with distinguished scholars from ACM-IAU in addition to local guides and experts in the field of politics, art history, history and culture. Special emphasis will be placed on the importance of North African immigration to Europe and its current socio-cultural implications.

II. CONTACT HOURS

This course carries 3 credits or 45 contact hours. Students complete readings prior to the program and finalize their assignments after departure, which extends the academics of the component past the on-site components. Lectures and site-visits are conducted 7-days per week throughout the J-Term. In addition to the in-class contact hours the course also includes an additional 25 hours of field study and guest lectures during the program. Please note that lectures can be held in the early morning, the late afternoon, evening and weekends during the 18 days that we are traveling together.





III. PREREQUISITES

Student must have at least sophomore level standing or advisor approval; Must have completed an introduction to political science, international relations, world history, or European history course.

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. At the end of this course students will better understand and thus clearly articulate the history and geography of France and Spain with regard to the current migration patterns of immigrants coming from North Africa into Western Europe.
2. Students will understand the history of the Moors in Spain and distinguish between banal representations of nationalisms, regionalisms and cultural and religious myths surrounding nation building in Spain.
3. Students will be able to recreate a map of the Mediterranean Basin outlining all of the countries that have been studied during the seminar and explain their historical relationship with one another.
4. Students will juxtapose the Christianization of Spain during the “Reconquista” with the Islamization of countries in North Africa and be able to clearly articulate the difference between religious tolerance and cultural respect using the city of Cordoba and others as examples.
5. Students will develop a clearer understanding of the relationship between Jews, Christians and Muslims and their co-habitation during a unique time in European history and cross-cultural exchange. This new heightened sensitivity will increase the student’s analytical skills with regard to history and religion.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS & ACTIVITIES

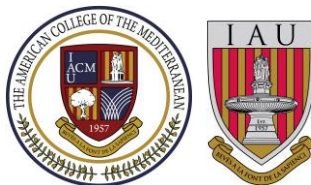
- a) Site visits
- b) Seminars and lectures
- c) Discussions/reading assignments for each place visited

VI. PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

(All readings provided via Teams)

1. Edward Said, [Orientalism](#) (25th anniversary edition)
2. Leila Lalami, [Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits](#)
3. Maria Rosa Menocal, [The Ornament of the World](#)
4. Amin Maalouf, [In the Name of Identity](#)
5. Juan Goytisolo, [Dialogues Without Frontiers](#)
6. Juan Goytisolo, [The Anti Orientalist](#)
7. John Richard Bowen, [Why the French Don’t Like Headscarves](#)

Pre-departure: Before departure, be sure to check your email and Teams during December so we can get in touch with you should there be any adjustments to the program. Also, be sure to order your books online with sufficiently speedy shipping time. Read as much as you comfortably can before departure so you can maximize your time and actively participate in the discussions as we travel.



OTHER READINGS

Selected texts and additional readings relevant to current events will also be posted via teams throughout the program.

Week One: France/Morocco

Amin Malouf, *In the Name of Identity* (First Half)

Bowen, *Why the French Don't Like Headscarves*

Said, *Orientalism*, Prologue, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week Two: Morocco/Gibraltar

Said, *Orientalism*, Chapters 2-4

Goytisolo, "Dialogues Without Frontiers."

Goytisolo, "The Anti Orientalist," New York Review of Books.

Lalami, *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits* (first half).

Week Three: Spain

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (finish book)

Menocal, *Ornament of the World*

Lalami, *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits* (second half)

Amin Malouf, *In the Name of Identity* (second half)

VII. EVALUATION & GRADING

Attendance and Short Papers (25% of grade):

Students are required to attend all classes, site visits, and class activities barring serious illness or an emergency. Students who miss sessions during the trip normally write papers to compensate for them. The prompts for the short papers are attached in this syllabus.

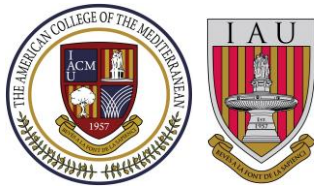
Quizzes and Exams (25% of grade):

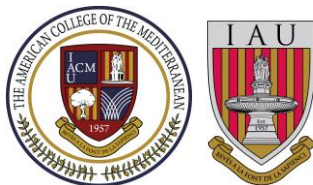
There will be quizzes in each of the three segments of the trip (Northern Spain, Southern Spain, and France) drawing on program lectures and readings to be specified. A final exam will be given on the final day of the program. Quiz prompts and the final exam prompt are attached to this syllabus.

Oral presentation (10% of grade) Sample prompts for oral presentation are found on the last page of this syllabus.

Final Exam (40% of grade):

A Comprehensive Final Exam will be given on the last day of the program covering all lectures, field studies and readings.





Grading Scale:

Attendance:

Students are required to attend all classes, site visits, and class activities barring emergency.

Plagiarism:

Submitting material that is entirely one's own work and same portions to their and grounds for failure.

Accommodations:

It is IAU's goal to provide accommodations for disability. If students need to participate in this class, IAU Wellness & Questionnaire in their and forward all requested

Note ACM-IAU	US
A	95-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	89%-88%
B	84-87%
B-	80-83%
C+	79%-78%
C	74-77%
C-	70-73%
D+	69%-68%
D	64-67%
D-	60-63%
F	59%-0%

attend all classes, site visits, serious illness or an

part or in whole is not without attributing those correct source is prohibited

reasonable students with a documented accommodation to fully they must complete the Accommodations online application portal supporting documentation.

VIII. 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. That said, be always aware of your surroundings, keeping your valuables close to you. Do not leave smartphones, cameras, etc. unattended. Travel as lightly as possible. Report any suspicious behavior to program supervisors.

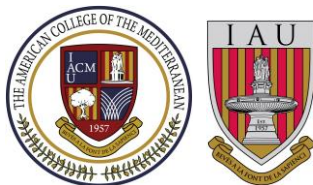
Pre-Departure:

Leading up to departure, be sure to check your email and Teams diligently so we can get in touch with you should there be any adjustments to the program. We will set up a WhatsApp group to communicate during the trip.

IX. CONTENT-Itinerary

Tentative daily Itinerary for December 29, 2025 - January 16, 2026 (*subject to change*):

MOROCCO



Monday-December 29	Arrival in Marrakesh—Orientation and Opening Lectures
Tuesday-December 30	Marrakesh—Lectures and Field Studies
Wednesday-December 31	Marrakesh—Lectures
Thursday-January 1	Marrakesh-Casablanca-Rabat—Lectures and Field Studies
Friday-January 2	Rabat—Lectures
Saturday-January 3	Rabat-Tangier— Quiz 1
Sunday-January 4	Tangier—Lectures and Field Studies
	SPAIN
Monday-January 5	Tangier-Gibraltar-Seville—Lectures and Field Studies
Tuesday-January 6	Seville—Lectures and Field Studies
Wednesday-January 7	Seville— Quiz 2
Thursday-January 8	Seville-Cordoba-Granada—Lectures and Field Studies
Friday- January 9	Granada—Lectures
Saturday-January 10	Granada-Madrid— Oral Presentation
Sunday-January 11	Madrid—Lectures and Field Studies – Quiz 3
Monday-January 12	Madrid—Lectures
	FRANCE
Tuesday-January 13	Madrid-Paris —Lecture, Field Studies
Wednesday-January 14	Paris—Lecture, Field Studies
Thursday-January 15	Paris— Final Exam
Friday-January 16	Departure

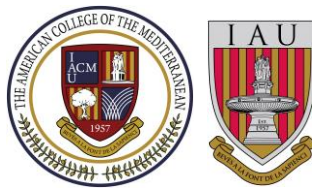
Europe and The Islamic World Lectures and Contact Hours 2025-2026 J-term Program December 29-January 16th

Total Contact Hours in Class Sessions = 47

Total Contact Hours in Field Study and Guest Lectures = 25

In Class Lectures

1. Introduction to the Geography of the Mediterranean (2 Contact Hours)
2. Geopolitics of the Mediterranean (Western Europe and North Africa) (2 Contact Hours)
3. Orientalism in France and Spain Part I and Part II (4 contact Hours)
4. French and Spanish Imperialism in North Africa (2 Contact Hours)
5. Introduction to Islam (2 Contact Hours)
6. Early History of Islam (2 Contact Hours)
7. Golden Age of Islam (2 Contact Hours)
8. The Ottoman Empire (2 Contact Hours)
9. Introduction to Political Islam (2 Contact Hours)
10. Radical Islam (2 Contact Hours)
11. Islam in France (2 Contact Hours)



12. Phantom Purity and History of Spanish Imperialism (2 Contact Hours)
13. Identity Politics in France and Spain (2 Contact Hours)
14. Hispano-Arabic Culture in Spain Part I and Part II (4 Contact Hours)
15. The Three Religions in Spain (Christianity, Judaism and Islam) (2 Contact Hours)
16. The War of Succession and the case of Gibraltar (1 Contact Hour)
17. The Catholic Kings of Spain and the end of the Granadine Empire (2 Contact Hours)
18. France's Colonial aspirations and policy: "La Mission Civilisatrice" (2 Contact Hours)
19. Spanish National Identity and the formation of Spain (2 Contact Hours)
20. La Convivencia or the Cohabitation of Christians, Jews and Muslims (2 Contact Hours)

Oral Presentations and Final Exam

In addition to in-Class Lectures, Students will actively participate in oral presentations (2 Contact Hours and a final exam (2 Contact Hours)

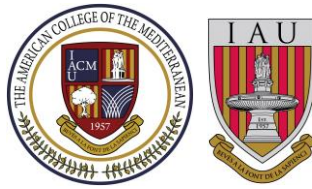
Field Study and Guest Lectures

1. Institute of the Arab World in Paris, La Bastille, Norte Dame (2 Hour Guided Visit)
2. Marrakech Medina and Cultural Center (2 Hour Guided Visit)
3. Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca (1 Hour Guided Visit)
4. Rabat Chellah, Mosoleum, Oudaya and Medina Visit (2 Hour Guided Visit)
5. Author Guest Lecture in Rabat with Abdellila Hamdouchi (2 Hour Lecture)
6. Tangier Pillars of Hercules, Cape Spartel, Medina (2 Hour Guided Visit)
7. Gibraltar St. Marc's Cave, Europa Point (2 Hour Guided Visit)
8. Seville Jewish Quarter, Plaza España, Barrio Santa Cruz, Cathedral (4 Hour Visit)
9. Granada La Alhambra, el Sacromonte, Medina (4 Hour Visit)
10. Madrid Plaza Mayor, Palacio Real, El Prado (4 Hour Visit)

Below are sample Oral report Prompts

The prompt for the oral report is actually a group presentation and students are asked to work in groups of 3 students and they can choose from the following list of possible prompts:

1. What examples can we find in music, movies or pop culture that reaffirms the notion of neo-Orientalism and anti-Arab or Islamophobia.
2. Present on the contradictory immigration policies and practices of France and Spain in relation to their post-colonial past and previous imperial aspirations.
3. Present on the difference between France and the US with regard to "Freedom from religion" as opposed to "Freedom of religion" specifically in the case if the headscarf issue in France.



4. Present on the linguistic and cultural importance of the Arabic language and culture on Spain and its current definition of national identity.

Students will give a 30 min presentation and are evaluated as a group.