
Directed Research

COURSE DESIGNATOR: MRCO 3993

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 24-30 (39-45 for semester-only)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This directed research provides students with the opportunity to investigate a cultural or societal topic related to Moroccan society, history, or culture under the supervision of a designated program faculty member. Students design the topic, readings, and methodology at the start of the semester with the faculty member and meet weekly with the faculty member to discuss topic development, additional readings (as needed), additional resources and considerations, and course paper progress.

Semester-only students will have a classroom component (*Morocco in Context*) as well as individualized instruction; academic year students will have all contact hours through individual faculty meetings. Semester and academic year students will receive the same amount of individualized contact hours and put forth a total of 100 hours of research effort over the course of the semester.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of a discrete aspect of Moroccan society, history, or culture through individualized faculty guidance and independent reading, research, and reflection.

METHODOLOGY

Students meet 1.5–2 hours weekly with the designated course instructor to discuss the student's progress and to identify next steps in their topic development. These individualized meetings are paired with 4 shorter written student submissions to the course instructor that include statement of purpose, research questions, methodology, and findings. Additional in person meetings are arranged, as needed. Each student presents final findings to the course instructor and other directed research students (if applicable) in the penultimate week of the semester and incorporates changes for the final 10–15 page paper due at the end of the term.

Student independent readings, research and written assignments must constitute 100 hours of effort over the course of the semester.

Student and faculty supervisor must complete the Directed Research Student/Faculty Contract Form and submit this to the Learning Abroad Center resident director at ALIF by the end of the first week of the academic program term, or as instructed.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Course instructor varies depending on student's specific topic to be pursued. The faculty member will be one of the faculty members currently teaching for the Arabic Language Institute in Fes (ALIF), the host organization for the Learning Abroad Center program. All faculty have advanced degrees, are vetted by ALIF, and also are faculty at one of the universities in Fes.

REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

Readings are tailored to the specific interests of the students and the expectations of the faculty supervisor. Students are expected to read 3–5 articles, a longer book, or an appropriate equivalent in quality for other media (film, poetry, etc.) each week.

GRADING

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED

4 shorter written submissions (3–5 pages)	30%
Final 10-15 page course paper	45%
Oral presentation	10%
Quality of discussion at weekly meeting	10%
Quality of course paper outline	5%
Overall grade	100%

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Details of assessment are established by faculty supervisor in consultation with the student.

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1: Introductory Meeting

Establish topic focus, grading expectations, readings, weekly meeting schedule, week 2 assignments/readings, complete LAC Directed Research Student/Faculty Contract

WEEK 2: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

WEEK 3: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus, feedback on first written assignment

WEEK 4: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

WEEK 5: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus, feedback on second written assignment

WEEK 6: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

WEEK 7: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus, course paper outline due

WEEK 8: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

WEEK 9: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus, feedback on third written assignment

WEEK 10: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

WEEK 11: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus, feedback on fourth written assignment

WEEK 12: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

WEEK 13: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus, feedback on fifth written assignment

WEEK 14: Continued Consultation and Progress Report

Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus, oral presentation

WEEK 15: Concluding Meeting and Paper Submission

Summative meeting, course paper due

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the onsite syllabus for specific class requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.