

PT 305 Colonization and Democracy: the case of Algeria

Tue/Thu 10:45-12:15

Seminar Leader: Ewa Atanassow

Guests: Geoff Lehman, Dr. Jakob Kraus (FU), Prof. Kathryn Lachman (Amherst)

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Office Hours: Wed 15:30-16:30 or by appointment

Course Description

How did the modern colonial empires impact the peoples and populations over whom they ruled? What is the relation between (de)colonization and democratization? What were the ethical and political stakes of the anti-colonial movements? What kind of social and political alternatives did post-colonial societies face in the past, and continue to face in the present?

Our course will explore these analytical and historical questions by closely examining the case of Algeria whose colonial experience and war of independence from France is often viewed as a paradigmatic example of a modern anti-colonial struggle. We will study the Algerian case from a variety of perspectives: colonial and anti/post-colonial; liberal and Marxist, masculine and feminine, historical and theoretical, cinematic and literary; and by critically engaging with thinkers, political actors, writers, and artists who themselves critically engaged with these questions, and elaborated conceptual frameworks and practical avenues for addressing them. Readings/viewings will include works by Abd-el-Kader, Malek Bennabi, Albert Camus, Eugen Delacroix, Assia Djébar, Franz Fanon, Karl Marx, Gillo Pontecorvo, and Alexis de Tocqueville.

Along with familiarity with key moments and figures in Algeria's history and political culture as a case study of articulating and testing alternative conceptions of modernity, the course will offer opportunities for independent research and learning how develop a scholarly project.

Required Texts

Tocqueville on Empire and Slavery, ed. Jennifer Pitts, ISBN: 9780801877568

Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, ISBN: 9780141186542

Albert Camus, *Algerian Chronicles*, ISBN: 9780674416758

Assia Djébar, *The Women of Algiers*, ISBN: 9780813918808

Course Reader

Library and Book Purchase Policies

Students are expected to have at their disposal a hard copy of all required texts. Copies of the required books and additional readings are available on reserve at the library.

Requirements

Attendance and Participation

Careful preparation, regular attendance and active participation are essential to the success of this course. Absences beyond two will affect the seminar grade. Please note: arriving late or leaving in the middle of a session will count as absence.

SPECIAL FALL '20 ARRANGEMENTS: Students, who for health or visa reasons are unable to attend in person, will be able to participate in the seminar proceedings via zoom. Students in class will take turns to liaise with those on zoom, collecting questions and comments from the zoom group and conveying these during specially designated times. In addition, there will be a virtual discussion on google classroom in which students will be able to participate on their own time. Other asynchronous options will be offered on a case by case basis.

Writing

Protocol writing and presentation: over the course of the semester, students will take turns to write protocols of the proceedings in each session, and present these at the beginning of the following session. A 'protocol' is a concise (750-1000 word) narrative account of the seminar discussion that recapitulates its main themes, and analyses a key issue articulating 1-3 questions for further discussion. The protocols should be circulated online by midnight on the day before the class meets.

Project Proposal and Final Essay: at the end of the semester students will write a substantial final essay of up to 3500 words on one aspect of the course material. To identify the final essay topic students are expected to conduct individual research throughout the term and submit (by Sunday, December 6) a 500-word proposal for the final essay topic, including bibliography, to be discussed with the instructor. The deadline for the final essay is December 18, 2020.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on seminar participation (30%); protocol writing and presentation (20%); a project proposal (20%) and final essay (30%).

Late Submission and Academic Integrity

Late papers will be downgraded in light of the policy outlined in the Student Handbook. Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Deadlines at a glance

The schedule for protocols and liaison duty will be set up by Friday, September 4

Proposal for final essay due Sunday, December 6

Final Essay deadline: Friday, December 18

Schedule

Week	Date	Reading
1	Sep 1	Introductory
	Sep 3	Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Introduction
2	Sep 8	<i>Fortnight in the Wilderness</i>
	Sep 10	<i>Fortnight in the Wilderness</i>
3	Sep 15	Tocqueville, <i>Letters on Algeria</i>
	Sep 17	Abd-el-Kader, selected writings
4	Sep 22	Histories of Algeria
	Sep 24	Histories of Algeria
5	Sep 29	Tocqueville, Essay on Algeria + Travel Notes
	Oct 1	Tocqueville, Essay on Algeria + Speeches
6	Oct 6	First Report on Algeria
	Oct 8	Second Report on Algeria
7	Oct 13	Orientalism: Delacroix Guest: Geoff Lehman
	Oct 15	Marx & Engels, Communist Manifesto
FALL BREAK		
8	Oct 27	Fanon, <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> , Preface, Ch. 1
	Oct 29	Fanon, <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> , Ch. 3 and 4
9	Nov 3	Camus, <i>Algerian Chronicles</i> : 23-116
	Nov 5	Camus, <i>Algerian Chronicles</i> : 121-159; 175-184; 187-195

10	Nov 10	Camus, <i>The Guest</i>
	Nov 12	<i>The Battle of Algiers</i> , screening
11	Nov 17	<i>The Battle of Algiers</i> , discussion Guest: Matthias Hurst
	Nov 19	Orientalism II: Bennabi and Said Guest: Jakob Kraus
12	Nov 24	Malek Bennabi, Ideology / Culture
	Nov 26	Malek Bennabi, Islam and Democracy
13	Dec 1	Djebar, <i>The Women of Algiers</i> Guest: Kathryn Lachman
	Dec 3	Djebar, <i>The Women of Algiers</i>
14	Dec 8	Djebar, <i>The Women of Algiers</i>
	Dec 10	Walzer, <i>The Paradoxes of National Liberation</i>

Final essays due Friday, December 18