



**Migration and Asylum in the Mediterranean  
Summer Program 2025 - Rabat, Morocco  
June 2 - July 11, 2025**

**I COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

*This course delves into the laws, policies and practices that shape migration and asylum dynamics in the Mediterranean. Taking Morocco as a case study, it studies how migration and asylum laws, policies and practices interact on the ground.*

This course examines migration and asylum in the Mediterranean through multiple lenses. First, it reviews the legal framework on freedom of movement and the right to asylum with a particular attention the laws that govern migration and asylum in the Mediterranean. Second, it focuses on migration policies. After outlining the main policies that govern relationship between states in the European Union (EU) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, it will focus on Morocco as a case study. Third, it looks at the role international organizations and civil society in these processes – highlighting the way in which they contribute to shaping how policies play out in practice.

**II COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The main objective of the course is to acquire general knowledge on the fundamental freedom of movement and rights to asylum, as well as on the main policies that govern these rights in the Mediterranean.

The ancillary objective is to gain an in-depth understanding of how fundamental rights, states' policies and practices interact on the ground. Through a case study on Morocco, it will provide specific examples on how different actors influence migration management.

**III LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

Acquire a general understanding of the fundamental freedom of movement and right to asylum;

- Identify main treaties, covenants, and agreements that guarantee freedom of movement and the right to asylum in the Mediterranean;
- Understand the drivers that regulate how states develop migration policies and implementation them on the ground;
- Recognise the role of other stakeholders (international organisations and civil society in particular) in migration management;
- Critically examine current debates on migration and asylum and the events that shape the way in which they are managed.

**IV INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES:**

This class is a reading- and discussion-intensive course. Students are encouraged to participate in class debates in order to better their understanding of the issues facing the region. The readings are essential, as they will provide the basis for discussions and lectures. Students' knowledge on the main elements of migration policies and practices will be tested through an in-class essay. A reflection

paper will provide students to apply the knowledge gathered during the course to critically examine a specific case study.

## V READINGS:

Selected chapters from the main textbooks:

- Migration in the Mediterranean: Socio-Economic Perspectives. (2016). Ambrosetti, Elena, Donatella Strangio, and Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, eds. Oxon and New York: Routledge.
- Natter K. (2023), The politics of immigration beyond liberal states: Morocco and Tunisia in comparative perspective. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

*Additional readings will be provided by the instructor*

## VI EVALUATION AND GRADING:

1. Reflection paper: analytical paper on a case study (40%)
2. Final exam: in-class essay on course material (40%)
3. Participation: contribution to class discussion (20%)

## VII ATTENDANCE:

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class, and its success depends very much on your coming to class on time, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Any absences can have a negative impact on your final grade. Students are permitted 2 (two) absences throughout the semester. It will be up to the student to manage their absences. Your final grade will be lowered by one half-letter grade (B+ to become a B, B to become B-, and so on) for each and every absence above two.

## VIII CALENDAR:

Week 1) Freedom of movement and right to asylum: introduction

- ❖ Key focus: *why people move?*
- ❖ Introduction to the course;
- ❖ Definitions, principles and general framework.

Week 2) Freedom of movement and right to asylum: legal framework

- ❖ Key focus: *which common body of rights in the Mediterranean?*
- ❖ Fundamental rights: international treaties and covenants;
- ❖ Case study: the [UN Global Compact for Migration](#) (guest lecturer)

Week 3) Migration: policies in the mediterranean

- ❖ Key focus: *what is the goal of migration policies in the Mediterranean?*
- ❖ Definitions and typologies;
- ❖ Zoom in the Mediterranean: multi- and bi-lateral cooperation.

Week 4) Migration policies: Morocco as a case study

- ❖ Key focus: *what are the outcomes of migration policies in Morocco?*
- ❖ Evaluating migration policies;

- ❖ Migration economics: quantifying investment and aid in Morocco.

Week 5) Stakeholders: international organizations

- ❖ Key focus: *how do international organisations influence migration policies?*
- ❖ History, main priorities and axes of work;
- ❖ Case studies: UNHCR in Morocco.

Week 6) Stakeholders: civil society in Morocco

- ❖ Key focus: *what role for civil society in migration management?*
- ❖ Moroccan civil society and migration;
- ❖ Roundtable/meeting with practitioners (**tbc**): Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS) Rabat, Groupe antiraciste d'accompagnement et de défense des étranger·e·s et migrant·e·s (GADEM), Clinique Juridique Hijra (CJH), Réseau marocain des journalistes des migrations (RMJM).