

## North African Postcolonial Cultures and Identities in Contemporary France

**Course Description:** For nearly two hundred years, France has been home to more immigrants than any other European country. The cultural productions that come out of these immigrations represent a living and fluid genre, one that is constantly being transformed and transforming itself by the lived experience of immigrants. In this course, we will examine the experience of immigrants in France as portrayed by artists, intellectuals, and authors from North Africa. The course begins with a historical overview of Algerian immigration to France from its origins in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including a discussion of the effects of the Algerian war for independence, the role of gender in immigration and the representation of women, the spatial organization of shantytowns and public housing complexes, and the development of Beur culture and the subsequent birth of Arabo-French identities. We will also examine the processes of memory and silence, as well as the presence of stereotypes in discourse by and about immigrants. Grades are based on attendance (10%), participation in discussion (20%), one oral presentation (10%), short (1-2 page) responses to readings and films (40%), and one final paper (5-6 pages) (20%).

### Topics Discussed in Class:

### Reading Assignments:

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Week 1 French Algeria (1830-1945) : Historical Context Documentary : Mémoires d'immigrés (excerpts)	Readings from Stora, <i>Ils venaient d'Algérie</i> .
Week 2 Les Trente Glorieuses (1945-1974) Post War Migration	Readings from Houari, <i>Un Algerien à Paris</i> Readings from Benguigui, <i>Inch'Allah Dimanche</i>
Week 3 A Gendered Immigration Regroupement Familial	Begag, <i>Le Gone du Chaâb</i> : 1-48 : 49-100
Week 4 Spatial Organization of Immigration: Bidonvilles <i>Le Gone du Chaâba</i> (film excerpts) : comparison The era of the HLM Film: <i>Le Thé au Harem D'archimède</i> (Exerpts)	: 101-49 : 150-200 Images from: Lallaoui, <i>Du bidonville aux HLM</i>
Week 5 The Algerian War in France Documentary: <i>Drowning by Bullets</i>	: 201-43 Sebbar, <i>La Seine était rouge</i> : 1-72
Week 6 Repressed Memories and Silence: Harkis Music : Idir, <i>La France des couleurs</i>	: 73-144 Readings from Kerchouche, <i>Mon Père ce Harki</i>
Week 7 Representations of Immigrants in the Media	Readings from Mills-Affif, <i>Filmer les immigrés</i>
Week 8 Forging a Multicultural France : Beur cultural productions Radio Beur : Nacer Kettane	Tadjer, <i>Les ANI du "Tassili"</i> : 1-48 : 49-100
Week 9 Film : Salut Cousin !	: 101-150 : 151-190
Week 10 Immigrant Stereotypes "First" and "Second" Immigrant Generations	Readings from Rosello, <i>Declining the Stereotype</i> Readings from Begag, <i>Ecarts d'Identité</i>
Week 11 Arabo-French Identities	Readings from Ben Jelloun, <i>Hospitalité française</i>
Week 12 The next generation and beyond	Guène, <i>Faïza. Kiffe, Kiffe Demain</i> : 1-40 : 41-94
Week 13 Racism and Discrimination	: 95-140 : 141-188
Week 14 Domestic Violence and Sexism	Readings from Amara, <i>Ni Putes Ni Soumises</i>
Week 15 Film: Aïcha	Final Paper Due