

Oregon State University
June 23—July 11, 2014

Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: Literature, the Arts, and Cinema since Independence

Letter from the Co-Directors
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Dear Colleague:

Many thanks for your interest in the 2014 NEH Summer Institute *Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: Literature, the Arts, and Cinema since Independence*, that we will direct next summer. The Institute will run for three weeks, from June 23 to July 11, 2014 on the campus of Oregon State University in Corvallis, located eighty miles south of Portland and some fifty miles from the Pacific Ocean. Because to date no comprehensive assessment has been attempted of post-colonial Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia from the perspective of the region's cultural artistic vitality, the intent of this institute is to investigate the significance of North African artistic expressions today. These forms include the literary, visual and musical arts that find origins in Berber, Arabic and European idioms; expressions that have adapted to modernity, postcolonialism, the reality of globalism and advances of social media. We are very excited at the prospect of bringing together leading scholars in North African studies and twenty-five college and university teachers wishing to expand their coursework or research on contemporary North Africa.

This institute builds on a 2007 NEH Institute devoted to Berber North Africa. Its purpose is to initiate college and university teachers to the transformative periods that have marked Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia since decolonization. The institute intends to present the Maghreb's transformative periods from the perspective of writers, painters, filmmakers and other artists. It will be organized around three themes that have connected politics and the arts since the 1960s: Nationalism, Exile and Revival. Three themes corresponding in overlapping ways to three periods: the post-independence and cold war years (1960-1990); the years marked by the political and economic instability of globalization (1990-2010); and the recent changes since the Arab Spring. The institute will bring six visiting scholars and twenty-five participants together with the objective of understanding the connections between the work of established and emerging artists who have contributed to social change in North Africa and these periods and themes.

Given the social and political changes that have unfolded in the wake of the Arab Spring, this institute should have broad appeal to teachers and scholars in the following fields: history, cultural anthropology (encompassing ethnology and folklore), linguistics, art, musicology, women studies, journalism, and film studies. It will also appeal to those whose work centers on North African studies or on the larger Francophone post-colonial world. Teachers and scholars hailing from different fields across the humanities and social sciences will be given the

opportunity over three weeks to converse with leading experts in North African and Francophone studies. During the institute experts will offer assistance with new curriculum design and with specific scholarly endeavors.

The purpose of this letter is to answer in a synoptic way some of the questions you may have about the goals and salient features of the institute. On the other links that we have assembled for this web site you will find more precise details about the institute's major components: housing, the Corvallis area and procedures to follow if you wish to apply. Should you have additional questions about the institute, please be assured that we will attempt to answer them promptly.

Institute Faculty

The institute faculty have been drawn from a pool of scholars well known for their innovative work to foster a better comprehension of the cultural or artistic production in the Maghreb today. James Le Sueur, Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is a leading scholar of contemporary North African history. He is also a Senior Associate Member of the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, Oxford University. Réda Bensmaïa, Professor of French Studies at Brown University, is a prominent expert on postcolonial Francophone studies. He is one of the world's leading experts in North African cinema and literature. Jane E. Goodman, Associate Professor of Communication and Culture at Indiana University, in Bloomington, is a renowned scholar specializing in the cultural anthropology of North Africa. Eric Sellin, Professor Emeritus of French at Tulane University, is among the first (if not *the first*) professors of Maghrebian studies in the United States. Cynthia Becker, Associate Professor of Art History at Boston University, is a renowned scholar of African arts specializing in the traditional and contemporary arts of northwestern Africa, specifically Morocco and Algeria. Mary Vogl, Associate Professor of French at Colorado State University, is among the leading experts in the study of the relations between literature and the arts, photography and representation in North Africa. The co-directors will also lend their expertise to the Institute in the fields of Francophone studies, North African literature, Film and Photography.

Outline of the Institute's Program

During the three weeks, the institute will approach the themes of nationalism, exile and revival since independence using seminal references and examples in literature, cinema, photography, painting and popular music, with the understanding that overlap between these forms is inherent to modern art and has increased with recent technology. The schedule allocates plenty of time to allow participants to consult individually with the institute faculty, think out curriculum projects and engage in research at the OSU Valley library. A number of other cultural events relating to North African culture will occur in parallel to the institute, sponsored by Oregon State University.

We will meet five days per week, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, except for Week Two (four days because of the 4th of July holiday). Typically, morning segments will open with a short lecture by guest speakers which will elucidate the weekly themes with reference to the assigned readings. The lecture will then be followed by general discussion so that participants can ask individual questions about the themes or the readings. The second part of the morning will consist of group activities designed by visiting scholars. Afternoons and some evenings will be left free for study and additional meetings with guest scholars to discuss curriculum development and research projects. On some evenings guest scholars will give short keynote addresses on aspects related to the Institute's themes. In preparation for the unit on cinema, there will be screenings, in a couple of evenings, of acclaimed films from the Maghreb. Participants will be sent several of the

assigned readings prior to their arrival in order to prepare for the institute. General cultural background information and specific articles will also be made available through the institute's website.

Oregon State University

Situated 80 miles south of Portland, OSU is one of only two American universities to hold the Land Grant, Sea Grant, Sun Grant, and Space Grant designation and is a Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive university. OSU is located in Corvallis, a community of 55,000 people situated in the Willamette Valley between Portland and Eugene. Ocean beaches, lakes, rivers, forests, high desert, the rugged Cascade and Coast Ranges, and the urban amenities of the Portland metropolitan area are all within a 100-mile drive of Corvallis. Approximately 26,000 students are enrolled in over 200 undergraduate and 80 graduate degree programs at OSU during the regular academic year. Typically there are about 4,000 students enrolled during the summer session at the 400-acre main campus in Corvallis. The Valley library will provide carrels and study space for the participants. Computer facilities will also be available both at the library and in other buildings.

Housing in Brief

A block of individual rooms has been reserved for institute participants in the newly constructed International Living and Learning Center (ILLC) on the north side of campus. The building is close to central campus, to Valley Library and to the Dixon Recreational Center. ILLC rooms are arranged in pairs with both rooms adjoined by a bathroom with toilet and shower. Rooms are provided with linen and blankets. Free laundry and large kitchen facilities are available on each floor. The ILLC is wheel-chair accessible with elevators. The center is not air-conditioned but remains cool thanks to an eco-friendly ventilation system (summers in Corvallis tend to be warm and dry during the day and cool at night). The lobby area contains a small supermarket, a coffee shop and a computer lab. Meal cards will be available to institute participants should they wish to take their meals in one of the cafeterias on campus. Arnold dining hall is adjacent to ILLC and offers an array of well-priced American and international cuisine. There are a good number of eateries on campus and on its perimeter. Downtown Corvallis is about a ten-minute walk from central campus. A full description of housing amenities and dining services can be found on our website, including room and meals card costs, along with a virtual tour of ILLC. Additional options for accommodations (hotels and bed and breakfasts) can also be found using the OSU/Corvallis link on the website. Most Institute activities (morning sessions, keynote talks, film projections) will take place within ILLC.

Stipends

Participants will receive a stipend of **\$2,700** to help cover their expenses during the three weeks of the institute. Please be aware that housing, meals and travel costs are likely to consume most of the stipend. The first installment of the stipend will be paid upon arrival, and a second installment will be paid during the third week of the institute.

How to Apply

Specific information on the institute's eligibility guidelines and application procedures can be downloaded from this site. Simply click the link "Application Instructions". If you would prefer that we mail you a copy of the application materials, please contact us by e-mail or phone. The deadline for submitting the completed application is **March 4, 2014**. We will notify participants

by March 31, 2014. Twenty-five applicants will be selected, with consideration given to balance academic disciplines, geographical regions and types of home institution. The application must include three copies each of the completed NEH cover sheet, an application essay and a vita (not to exceed five pages), along with two letters of recommendation. The most important part of the application is the essay. In four double spaced pages or less it should contain relevant academic and personal information; reasons for applying to the North Africa Institute; professional and intellectual interest in the topic; qualifications to do the work of the institute and contribute to it; teaching and research expectations resulting from the institute; and the relation of the study to teaching.

The completed application should be postmarked **March 4, 2014** and be addressed to:

Joseph Krause and Nabil Boudraa, Co-Directors
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Independence
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Thank you again for your interest in our institute. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Joseph and Nabil