



SPRING 2008

Culture & Events in North Africa

What is an Event? What is Culture? What is the relationship between events and cultures? What is North Africa? How can one define it? What is African about North Africa? What is Middle Eastern about Africa? This seminar intends to investigate these questions through a series of empirical works about North Africa by historians, anthropologists, and literary scholars. The goal of the seminar is also to show, through a series of lectures by highly renowned scholars of different parts of North Africa, how the region is culturally and politically part of a larger whole that is sometimes overlooked; and yet how North Africa, despite or because of its amazing cultural, political, ethnic diversities, is distinct from the other part that it is usually associated with – the Middle East. Topics will include Arab and Berber cultures in North Africa, North Africans in the USA, North African Sufi music in Morocco, and the Sahara as a contested space in Libya.

Monday, January 28 - International Room, Union

Opening and Lecture by Majid Hannoum, University of Kansas:
North Africa as a Geo-Political Entity, or, How North Africa is Africa

Thursday, February 7 - Pine Room, Union

Lawrence Rosen, Princeton University:
Defending Culture: The Cultural Defense and the Law's Theory of Culture
(co-sponsored by AAAS and Anthropology)

Thursday, April 10 - Pine Room, Union

Ali Ben Hmida, University of New England:
The Sahara as a Contested Space: Two Cases from Libyan History

Monday, April 21 - International Room, Union

Deborah Kapchan, New York University
Performing the Festive Sacred in Morocco: Sufi Tourism and The Promise of Sonic Translation

Lectures Jan. 28-April 10 will be held 3:30-5:00pm
April 21: 1:00-2:30pm



For further information, please contact the Kansas African Studies Center 785.864.3745 or kasc@ku.edu.