

SPAN1131: Overview of Western Sahara block, epiphany term

Lecture One: *Brief modern history of Western Sahara.* This lecture aims to give you the contextual information that you need to understand the rest of the block. We will go over the history of the Spanish colonization of Western Sahara, how the conflict with Morocco came about, and why it still persists today.

No preparation needed. You may wish to consult the historical background reading parts of the reading list to consolidate what you have learned in the lecture.

Monday film screening (week 2) (23 Jan, 18:00-19:15, room TBC): *Life is Waiting: Referendum and Resistance in Western Sahara.* This award-winning documentary, censored in several countries, focuses on Saharawis' nonviolent, everyday resistance through arts and creativity.

During the screening, please bear in mind the three questions on your handout (the handout is on DUO – please bring it to the screening) and make some brief notes in response. These will be helpful during the first seminar.

Lecture Two: *How to start a revolution.* This lecture aims to introduce you to nonviolent resistance (as opposed to armed revolution or terrorism) as a political strategy. We will learn about nonviolent strategy in general, so that you are later able to understand the place of culture, and more specifically poetry, in the Saharawi nonviolent resistance movement.

Please read the Sharp (2013) and Merriman (2009) readings before the lecture. We will also use these readings in your first seminar.

Seminar One (weeks 2 and 3): In this seminar, we will build on your understanding of how nonviolent strategy works. We will also discuss the place of culture in the Saharawi nonviolent movement against Moroccan occupation.

Please bring the seminar handout (available on DUO) to class. Please also bring your notes from the film screening, and from the second lecture. You also need to complete the Stephan and Mundy (2006) reading before the seminar.

Lecture Three: *Saharawi resistance poetry: the poetry of the Friendship Generation I.* In this lecture, we will learn about the Friendship Generation of Saharawi poets, their influences and thematic interests, why they write in Spanish and how their work forms part of the wider Saharawi nonviolent resistance movement.

Before the lecture, please make sure you have read through the dossier. Please also translate any words that you don't understand in the poems *Un beso*, *El tiempo va* and *La ciudad del viento*.

Lecture Four: *Saharawi resistance poetry: the poetry of the Friendship Generation II.*
This lecture will focus on violence against Saharawis and how it is depicted in Friendship Generation poetry.

Before the lecture, please read through the poems *El Aaiún o Beirut* and *Aminatou, la victoria* in your dossier and translate any words you don't know.

Seminar Two (weeks 4 and 5): In this seminar, we will be consolidating your understanding of how violence is represented in Saharawi poetry. Please consult the handout on DUO for details on how to prepare for the seminar.

Lecture Five: Half hour discussion with poet. The rest of the class will involve some revision.

Before the lecture, please share ideas for questions via the blog on DUO.