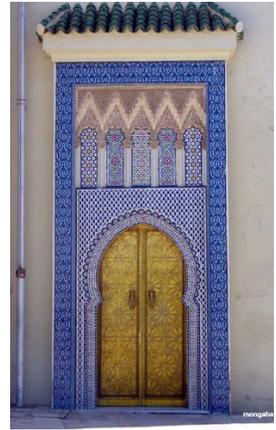




Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation



Morocco: Islamic Thought and Culture

IN COOPERATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME

JANUARY 5-15, 2008

INTRODUCTION:

The rapid changes, which have occurred in the world since September 11, 2001, have created an urgency and greater need to have a better understanding between America and the Islamic World. With over 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide, it is most important for policy-makers, religious leaders, business leaders, scholars and students to have a better understanding from cultural, political, religious, social and intellectual perspectives.

WHY MOROCCO?

Throughout the early centuries of Islam, Morocco has been a land of diverse cultures and a stronghold for the Muslim World. Morocco or as it is called, "Al Maghrib - the West" had a great influence in many directions; Africa to the south and the Iberian Peninsula and Europe to the north. Its ports allowed the free exchange of scholars of the medieval times between the East & West and the North & the South. The Moroccan society today is a sample of what the Middle Eastern societies experience as they struggle with modernity, authenticity, globalization, causes of terrorism and extremism, and defining the parameters of the relationship between the Muslim World and the United States.

This program is designed to deepen the understanding of Muslim societies through first hand experiences with the culture, faith, daily activities of the people. You will visit rich historic sites and interact with professors, students, politicians, and religious leaders of various faiths traditions, as well as have time to relax and experience the beauty, food and hospitality of the Moroccan culture and its people.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

To gain a deeper understanding of:

1. Islam and the Muslim world
2. Islamic theology and its relationship to the daily life of each Muslim
3. The Abrahamic Traditions of Muslims, Christians and Jews - Commonalities and Differences
4. Contributions of the Islamic Civilization throughout history to the West
5. Introducing American perspectives and experiences through arranged meetings, discussions and dialogue

PROGRAM FORMAT:

- Lectures, guest speakers, power-point and video presentations
- Meetings with local officials, religious leaders and scholars
- Dialogue with local communities about misperceptions and other issues
- Lectures will take place at historic sites in Rabat, Fez, Tangier and Casablanca.

HELPFUL READING:

Recommended reading materials and web sites will be given a month prior to commencement of the program.

PROGRAM LEADERS: This program was designed primarily for the College of Notre Dame and will be led by Sister Eileen Eppig, SSND, PhD & Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, PhD

NOTE: For student participants, this study tour may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit at the College of Notre Dame. The course fulfills upper level religious studies and cross-cultural requirements.

For more information or registration, please contact:

Sr. Eileen Eppig, Associate Professor, College of Notre Dame
410-532-5307
EEppig@ndm.edu

OR

Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Adjunct Professor, College of Notre Dame
410-944-6077
mohamadba@aol.com

Sister Eileen Eppig, SSND, PhD: Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the College of Notre Dame. Has led study tours to El Salvador. Studied Islam in Jordan in January 2007; has helped to facilitate workshops on Islam with the Islamic Society of Baltimore.

Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, PhD: Founder of Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF), President of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland, and Muslim Chaplain for the Baltimore City Police Department. In 1993, he founded An-Nur Institute for Islamic Studies and Arabic Language. His focus is to bring people together in a format, where exchanges can take place more effectively to create a better world that enjoins peace, love and cooperation, not conflict.