

MENASA SUMMER SCHOOL



■ **Understanding
Security in the
Sahel Region**

Applications are now open !

➤ **Monday, July 1st – Friday, July 12th**



01.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

The MENASA program – Middle East, North of Africa and Sahel Studies of the College of Social Sciences at the International University of Rabat (UIR) offers a rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum designed to develop students' understanding of the sociopolitical, geopolitics, security and cultural richness of three regions.

MENASA is a great opportunity given the prominence that Africa as a continent has gained in recent years and the vision of Africa Rising, a continent with many employment and investment opportunities. The focus on the Sahel is therefore fundamental in terms of security, encompassing all security 'regimes'; peacekeeping operations, social security, economic, environmental and military security.

Whilst strongly rooted in its locality and mission, the International University of Rabat is international in outlook, vision and character and in the reach and impact of its academic education, professional training and innovative research programs. UIR is the ideal environment for international students searching for an immediate, experience-based overseas pedagogical program for either a semester or a full academic year.



The MENASA Summer School proposes a specialized course on the Sahel in order to understand the dynamics of political violence, the rise of armed organizations of different ideologies, the rivalries of international and regional actors that are making the Sahel a region of securitisation and finally, to increase the understanding of a Sahero-Saharan space that is facing new realities such as Climate Change and the consequences they are having on a space dedicated to livestock farming, pastoralism and agriculture.

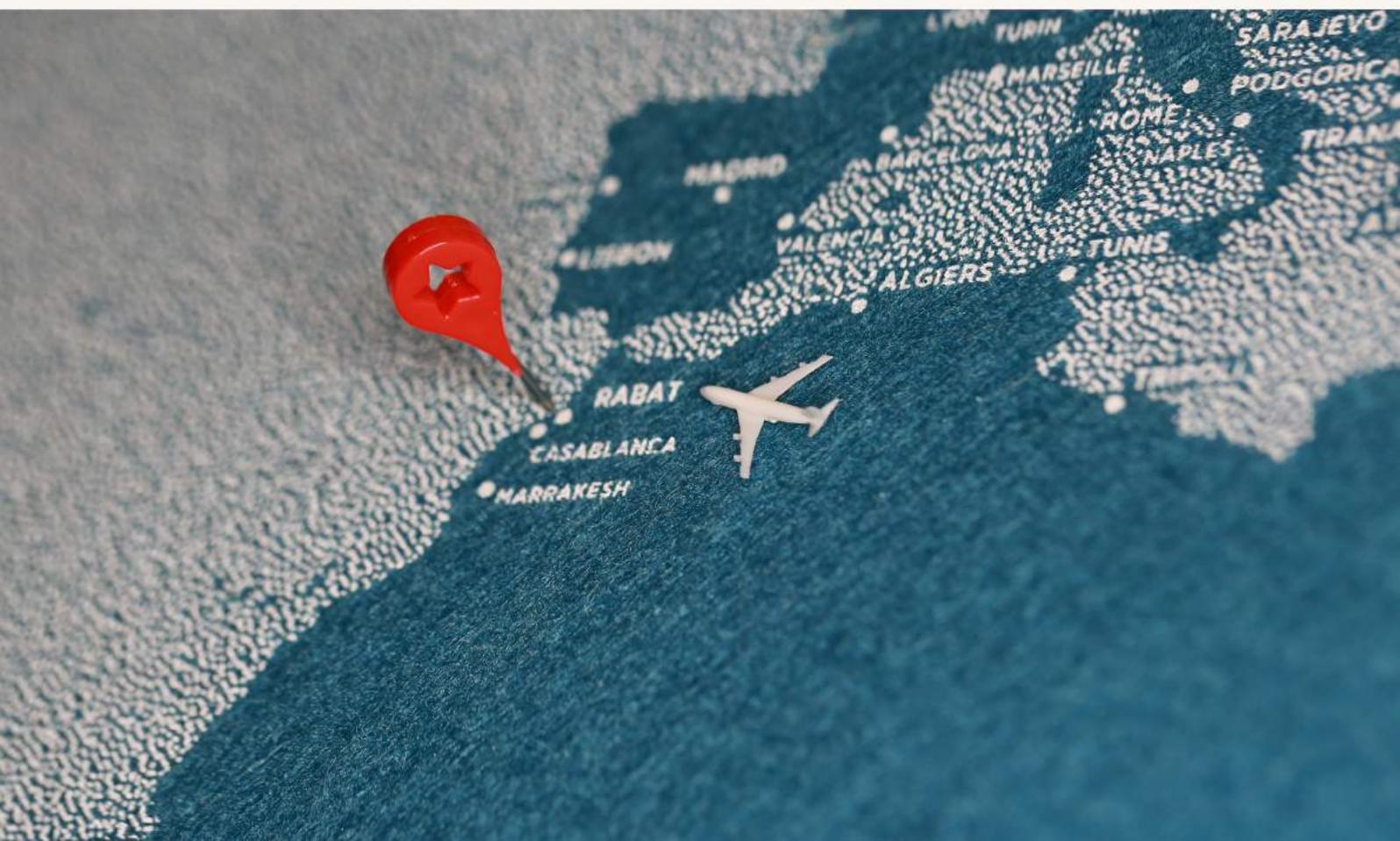
The course distinguishes between three Sahel(s): the Geographic Sahel, the Institutional or Political Sahel and the Security Sahel. All three are fundamental to study at a time of exponential rise in violence and the transnationalization of violence on the borders of Liptako Gourma (Central Sahel).

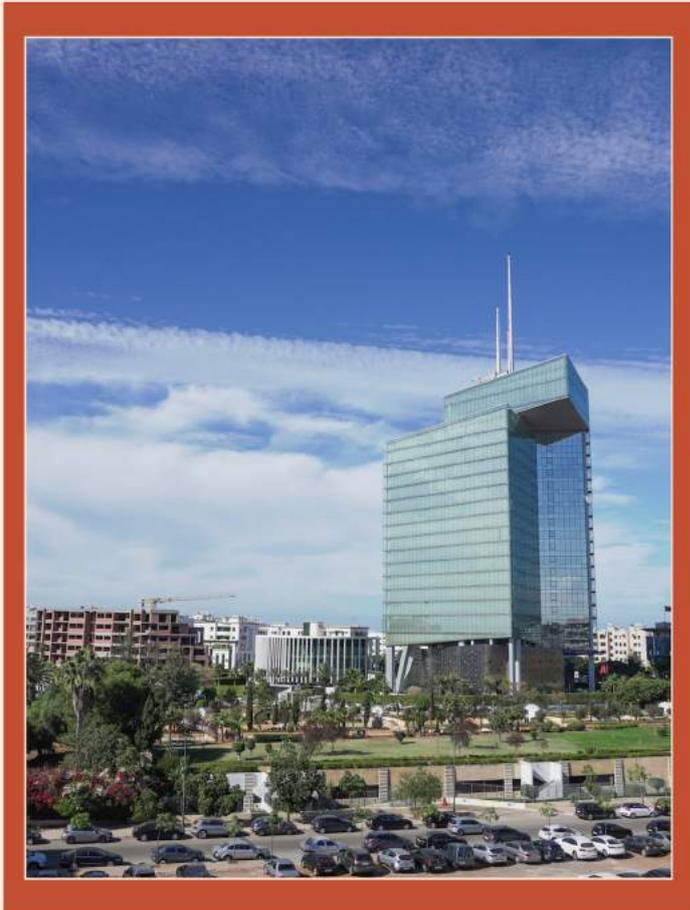
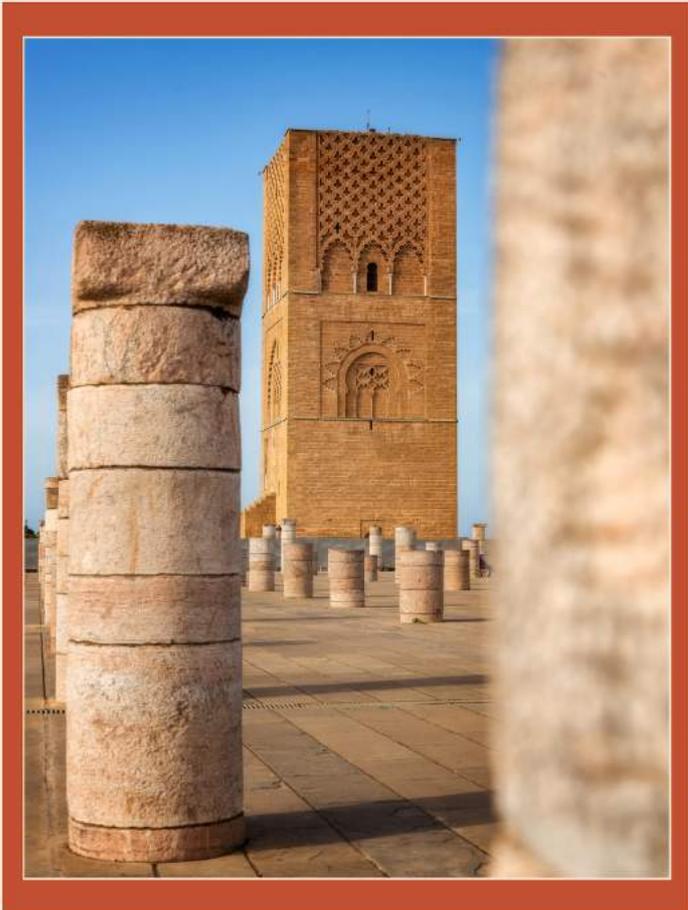
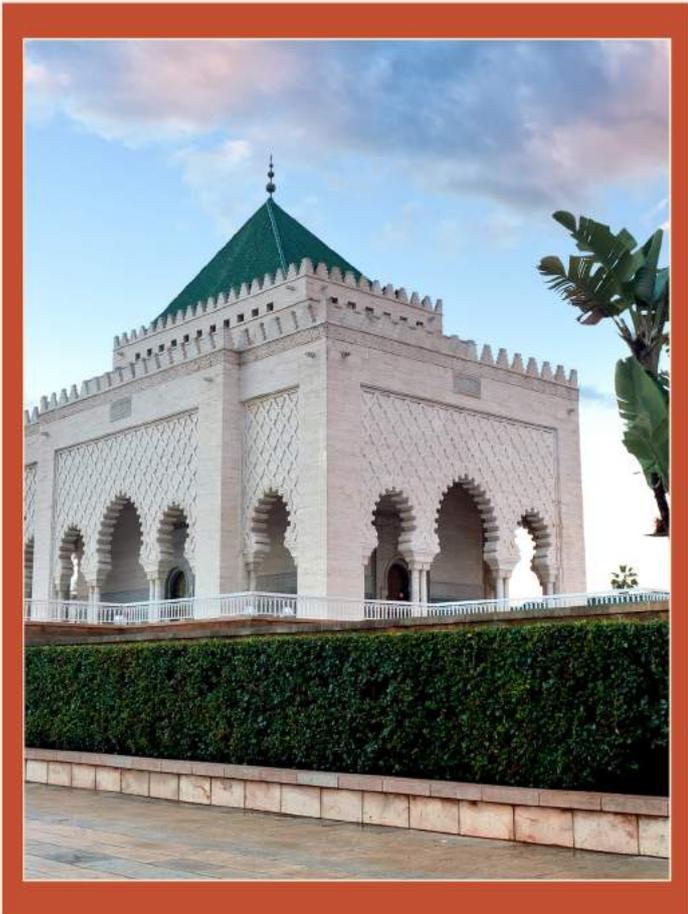
The aim of this course is also to rethink security and through the different security regimes which is, today, a hot topic especially after the impact of the French military intervention at 2013. The Sahel lies at a security crossroads threatened by polyhedral actors who move between organized crime and the struggle for ethno-territorial control.

02.

LOCATION

Based in Rabat, the Summer School program commits to help its students to develop field work research skills and encourage them to pursue their own research interests: to explore the University's wealth of academic resources, as well as Rabat's city streets and Morocco's diverse landscapes. The program's faculty trains its students in background knowledge, research techniques and theoretical frameworks, while its management team advises them in the creation of their own personal networks and professional contacts.





Rabat-Morocco

03.

WHY STUDY IN MOROCCO



- Earn credit whilst studying your perfect summer course.
- Experience Rabat life as a student in one of the most international universities of Morocco.
- Exchange with other international students in order develop academic rigor and engage in robust debate, shaped by the unique lens of Africa from Africa.

04.

COURSE COMPONENTS

01

AN INTRODUCTION TO SAHEL
GEOPOLITICS

03

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN
SAHEL

02

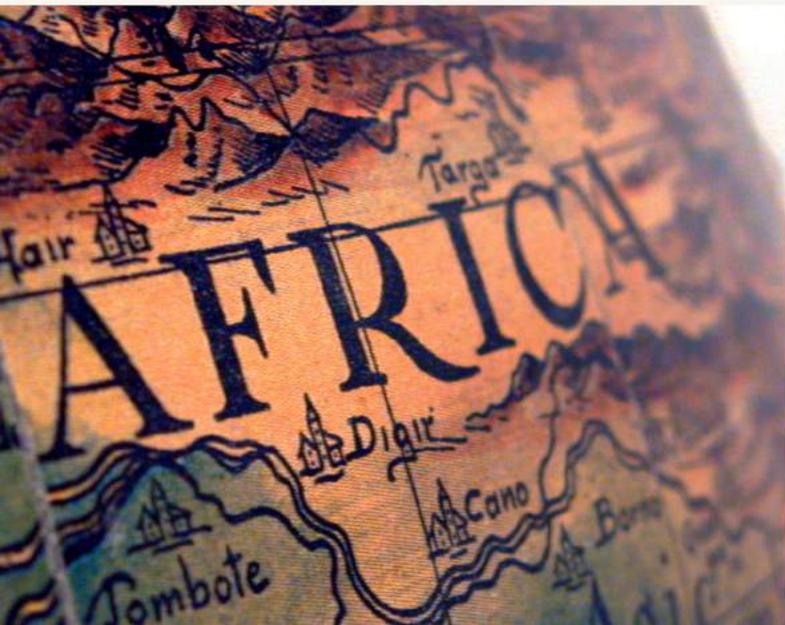
POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE
SAHERO-SAHELIAN SPACE :
TERRORISM, CRIMINALITY AND
CONFLICTS

04

REGIONALS RIVALRIES BETWEEN
NORTH OF AFRICA AND SAHEL

05

GOVERNANCE AND CLIME



ABOUT THE REGISTRATION

01 ELIGIBILITY

The program* welcomes applicants with experience in the humanities, international studies, in security studies, international diplomacy.

02 TUITION FEES

1000 euros

03 COURSE CREDITS

ECTS 8 ECTS

04 REGISTRATION DEADLINES

June 15, 2024

05 HOW TO APPLY

Please fill out the online form, and one of the MENASA Team members will get back to you within 48 hours:

<https://forms.office.com/r/4D6afVr6MK>



For More Information on the Summer School Program, please contact at :
menasa@uir.ac.ma

**A course certificate of attendance will be delivered at the end of the program.*

**The course will be taught in English 100% .*



BEATRIZ MESA

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES - INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF RABAT

Beatriz Mesa holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Grenoble (France). She is an associate professor at UIR's College of Social Sciences. Between 2020 and 2023, she was a lecturer at the Université Gaston Berger (UGB) in Saint Louis (Senegal). She is a member of the 'Conflict management, regional dynamics and security in Africa: geopolitics of tensions, contemporary polemology and peacebuilding' unit at the Centre for Global Studies (CGS) and a member of the 'Culture, Society and Religion' Chair.

She is coordinator of Sahel Research at the MENASA Program at College of Social Sciences (UIR). As member of the research team at the Laboratoire d'analyse des sociétés et des pouvoirs - Afrique / Diasporas (LASPAD) of Gaston Berger University (UGB), she is participating in a project of surveys of security perception in Sahel (Mali, Níger and Burkina Fasso). Her current areas of interest and work focus on security, migration, identities, political Islam, conflicts, armed groups and the criminal economy in the Maghreb and Sahel region. She also has over 15 years' professional experience as an international analyst for the communications media.

Mesa is a member of various scientific associations and is the author of several articles, including, but not limited to: La falsa yihad: el negocio del narcotráfico en el Sahel (Dalya, 2013) and Les groupes armés du Sahel. Conflict and the Criminal Economy in Northern Mali (Halfa, 2021).

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DJALLIL LOUNNAS

AL-AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Djallil Lounnas is an associate professor of International Studies in Al Akhawayn University. Specialist in Violent extremism and regional security in North Africa-Sahel, he is the author of several papers in academic journals on this topic. He is also the author of the book Le Djihadisme en Afrique du Nord-Sahel: d'AQMI a Daech (Paris : L'Harmattan - Les Presses de la Fondation pour la Recherche Strategiques, 2019).

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CONTACT US



LAURENCE THIEUX

COMPLUTENSE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID (UCM)

Laurence Thieux is a lecturer in the Department of International Relations and Global History in the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology at Madrid's Complutense University. She holds a PhD in International Mediterranean Studies from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, specialising in Arab and Islamic Studies. Her doctoral thesis was on "The Algerian civil war and its impact on the foreign policies of France and the United States towards Algeria (1991-1999)". She is an associate researcher at the Groupe d'Étude des Sociétés Arabes et Musulmanes (GRESAM) at the University of Castilla-la Mancha and at the Groupe de Recherche Complutense sur le Maghreb et le Moyen-Orient (GICMOM) at the Complutense University in Madrid.

His main areas of research are: social movements and civil society in the MENA region; foreign policy in North African countries; Algeria; development cooperation policies with MENA countries.

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Contact : lthieux@ucm.es



MASSIMO RMAIOLI

AL-AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Massimo Rmaioli is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. He has also held positions at Habib University in Pakistan. His research focuses on contentious politics, political Islam, and international relations. Before that, he taught in Amman and studied Arabic in several cities. He regularly contributes to *Nuovo Mondo Economico* and is a research associate in Germany.

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RENATA SERRA

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDE (UF)

Renata Serra is Senior Lecturer in the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida, core faculty member in the Master in Sustainable Development Practise program and Lead researcher for the Enabling Environment team within the USAID Feed the future Livestock Systems Innovation Lab at uf, co-leading both the Policy and Gender Teams.

An economist by training, she earned her PHD from Cambridge University (UK) in 1997. Her expertise focuses on agricultural and livestock policies, the political economy of reforms, gender issues and household decision-making, child labor, and social capital with particular attention to countries in Franco-phone West Africa. Dr Serra has done consultancy work for Catholic Relief Services, the international Cocoa Institute, Oxfam UK, DFID, SIDA, the world bank, and Save the Children UK. She is currently co-PI for the LIVT project.



LEONARDO VILLALÓN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDE (UF)

Leonardo A. Villalón is Professor of Political Science and African Studies and founder and coordinator of the Sahel Research Group at the University of Florida. He is a specialist on the countries of the African Sahel (Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Chad), where he has carried out research on the role of religion in politics, democratization, electoral issues, education, and political stability. His current research focuses on the impact of climate change in the highly vulnerable countries of the region. Villalón holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, and degrees from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University, and Louisiana State University.

CONTACT US



NIZAR MESARI

AL-AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Nizar Messari, currently an Associate Professor at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco, has held various leadership roles within the institution, including Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Vice President for Academic Affairs. With international experience, he was a Rice Scholar at Yale University's MacMillan Center and previously served as an Assistant Professor at PUC-Rio in Brazil. Messari's scholarly contributions span across journals and co-edited volumes in English, Portuguese, and French, covering topics such as security studies and international relations theory. He is presently working on a book exploring security studies with a southern and critical perspective, focusing on the Arab world.



OSCAR MATEOS

BLANQUERNA UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONE

Oscar Mateos, a tenured professor at Ramon Llull University, specializes in International Relations with a focus on conflict analysis and peacebuilding in African nations like Sierra Leone and South Sudan. Holding a PhD from UAB, he has extensive experience as a visiting professor in Sierra Leone and a visiting researcher in London. Mateos has contributed significantly to academia with numerous publications and policy papers, including works for organizations like Médecins Sans Frontières and Conciliation Resources. He is an active member of various institutes and boards, currently focusing his research on topics such as the future of liberal peacebuilding, EU Strategy in the Sahel, and global governance with a focus on the African Union.

CONTACT US



BEATRIZ DE LEÓN COBO

**PHD STUDENT ON RADICALIZATION (UNIVERSITÉ DE PARIS).
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT ON SECURITY AND STABILISATION IN LCB AND SAHEL REGION.
COORDINATRICE DU GROUPE D'EXPERTS DU FORUM DE DIALOGUE SAHEL-EUROPE (CENTRO DE SEGURIDAD INTERNACIONAL-UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO DE VITORIA)**

Beatriz de León Cobo est une analyste de conflits spécialisée dans la sécurité, la radicalisation violente et l'analyse politique dans la région du Sahel, l'Afrique de l'Ouest et l'Europe. Elle est doctorante en sociologie à l'Université de la Sorbonne à Paris. Elle travaille en tant que conseillère en matière de sécurité, de justice et de conflits pour la société de conseil britannique First Call Partners. Pendant 5 ans, elle a travaillé comme consultante indépendante pour des gouvernements, des organisations régionales et des institutions académiques sur la sécurité, la justice, la stabilisation politique et sociale, et les menaces transfrontalières. Elle est actuellement analyste au Centre de sécurité internationale de l'Université Francisco de Vitoria, où elle dirige le groupe d'experts du Forum de dialogue Sahel-Europe.



ABDOURAHMANE SECK

Abdourahmane Seck, based at Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, holds expertise in philosophy, anthropology, and African history, focusing on social and symbolic dynamics in Africa, including religion, politics, migration, and decolonial historiography. With a deep understanding of West African and Senegalese contexts, Seck's work is informed by his activism and organizational engagement on the continent and within its diasporic communities. He teaches at the Centre pour l'étude des religions and is known for his publications on Islam, South-South migration, and communalism in Africa. Currently, Seck is leading efforts to establish a Center for Critical Humanities in Africa/Asia and coordinates the Group for Action and Critical Study (GAEC-Africa), advocating for the rights of marginalized groups affected by various injustices.

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