

WHY STUDY ABROAD WITH SIT IN TUNISIA?

As arguably the most progressive of Arab nations and one whose post-independence modernization policies have been relatively successful, Tunisia is an outstanding place to study how the contrary pulls between tradition and change are playing out in the Arab world.



Tunisia is an ideal location to study the tensions arising from the two major forces shaping Arab culture today: tradition and modernity.

From school curricula to dress code, from the banking system to the function of art, from claims of national identity to media control, from bilingualism to women's rights, virtually every aspect of public and private life in

Tunisia is being viewed through the two seemingly irreconcilable oppositions of tradition and change.

In addressing these challenges, Tunisia has promoted a national form of faith to oppose the militancy of radical Islam; adopted an inventive interpretation of the Koran to defend women's emancipation; and is teaching "religious studies" in school to prepare students to live in a multi-confessional society.

Tunisia's project of modernity is being emulated in other Arab states.

Tunisia offers a window today into what will likely happen in other Arab nations tomorrow.

Students in the SIT Tunisia program examine these challenges and tensions firsthand. As part of the coursework, field assignments, and excursions, students discuss and debate the nostalgia for a glorious past versus the impulse toward a new future; ancestral customs versus innovative change; stability versus reform; native heritage versus westernization; and Islam's engagement with the project of modernity.



Students ***learn how the tension between tradition and change has produced a hybrid culture in Tunisia that is at once responsive to the demands of universal modernity and mindful of tradition.***