TENSIONS:
Libya – Algeria – North Africa

The African Studies Program, in collaboration with Area Studies, invite you to what promises to be an interesting two lecture mini-series bringing new angles (African and Arab) to the crisis in Libya, Algeria and North Africa. First event is next Thursday, April 21, and second is Tuesday, April 26. See attached two paged flyer for details.
Although North Africa has had as ancient a connection to antique Europe and to the Islamic Middle East as it has to an even older Africa and a subsequent Muslim sub Sahara, the recent revolutions have been characterized in the media mainly in relation to the Arab world. However, following Tunisia and Egypt, the revolutionary pace is coming unstuck in both Libya and Algeria. We begin to suspect that “North Africa” may not in fact possess a singular historical trajectory (there is hardly a stirring in Morocco). This miniseries seeks to explain both what is common across this region, but also what is different within it. It will address both the historical background to Libya’s significant and interesting historical connection to the rest of the continent (the West’s “Real Africa”?) as much as Algeria’s historical gaze in the other direction (i.e. towards “Europe,” despite both its earlier anti-colonial struggles and its no less present Saharan contexts).

April 21 5:00pm
2011 Distinguished Africanist Speaker – Ali Abdullatif Ahmida
The Sahara as Contested Space:
The View from Libyan History
Professor Ali Abdullatif Ahmida is 2010-2011 Ludcke Chair of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Chair of the Political Science Department at the University of New England. Ahmida is also the author of two books, The Making of Modern Libya, and, Forgotten Voices.
~Kirkbride 100

April 26 5:00pm
Lahouari Addi
The Crisis of the Authoritarian Rule in North Africa
Professor Lahouari Addi is Sociologist and Professor at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques-Lyon, France. His work has focused on Algeria, and broadly on North Africa. Addi is author of several books including Mutations de la societe algérienne.
~Kirkbride 100

Supported by the Area Studies Programs, the African Studies Program, the Islamic Studies Program, the Department of Political Science and International Relations, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Institute for Global Studies.

For more information, contact: Professor Ikem Stanley Okoye at (302) 831-4038