

MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE AND HISTORY *Mediterranean Studies*

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to offer a broad introduction to the main stages of evolution of the Mediterranean using as a framework, not History, but its cultures, religions and peoples. The main topics covered are: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Greece, Rome, Germanics, Byzantines, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, the Renaissance, the Mediterranean family and the Modernization of Mediterranean Societies.

The course is not structured chronologically but by subject. The events covered in each of the classes however, will maintain a chronological structure. Each session will be independent from the others.

REQUIREMENTS

Fluent English

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Have the tools necessary to face almost any document concerning the Mediterranean region.
- Describe the most important cultures that find their origin in the Mediterranean.
- Analyze any event that occurs in the Mediterranean with cultural or religious implications.
- Describe the evolution of some cultural areas of the Mediterranean and try to give an interpretation on what is happening in the region.
- Be able to approach any comparative history of different regions of the Mediterranean.

CONTENTS

Week	Content	Activities*
1	Geography and Anthropology	Sessions dedicated to the study of the regions and peoples of the Mediterranean Region.
2	The Origins of Civilization in the Eastern Mediterranean	In these sessions we will cover how Mesopotamia, the Levant and Egypt shaped the future of the Mediterranean Region.
3	Monotheism and Israel	Documentary. How Monotheism is a Mediterranean Idea.
4	Ancient Greece	We will study the most important elements of the Greek World.
5	Phoenicia and Rome	We will study the most important elements of these two very important civilizations.
6	Christendom	Documentary. We will study how this monotheist faith spread throughout the Mediterranean Basin.
7	Medieval Civilizations	We will study the fragmentation of the Roman Empire and the creation of the Post-Roman World.
8	Islam	We will study how this monotheist faith spread from Mecca to Spain and India.
9	Modern Mediterranean	We will study how the French and the British influenced the Mediterranean.
10	The Modern Mediterranean	We will study how the Ottoman Empire collapsed and how it created a complicated Balkan Peninsula.
11	The Contemporary Mediterranean	Documentary: World War I in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.
12	The Contemporary Mediterranean	Documentary: World War II in the Middle East and North Africa.
13	The Contemporary Mediterranean	The Cold War in the Mediterranean Scenario.
14	Final Exam	

*Subject to change

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Classes will be conducted in lecture format. Lectures start by explaining the topics covered in the session and why they are relevant. They are interactive from the start and individual student participation is encouraged. Lectures are combined with group exercises with the aim of consolidating the knowledge acquired during the lecture.

The last part of the semester will be fully articulated through presentations. It is therefore important that not only the students presenting, but also those listening, are fully aware of the materials worked.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Mid-term exam:	30%
Test:	30%
Presentations:	10%
Participation:	10%
Class Activity:	10%
Final exam:	10%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required reading:

Abulafia, D. (2011) *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean*. Oxford: OUP.
Hause, S. & Maltby, W. (2004) *Western Civilization. A History of European Society*. London: Wadsworth Publishing.

Keysar, A. & Kosmin, B.A. (Ed.) (2008) *Secularism & Science in the 21st Century*. Hartford: Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture.

Kosmin, B. A. & Keysar, A. (2009) *Secularism, Women & the State: the Mediterranean World in the 21st Century*. Hartford: ISSSC.

Quataert, D. (2005) *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*. Cambridge: CUP.

Recommended reading:

Heck, G.W. (2006) *Charlemagne, Muhammad, and the Arab Roots of Capitalism*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Greenberg, R. D. (2004) *Language and Identity in the Balkans. Serbo-Croatian and its disintegration*. Oxford: OUP.

Le Goff, J. (2005) *The Birth of Europe*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Petrakis, M. *The Metaxas Myth. Dictatorship and Propaganda in Greece*. London: Tauris Academic Studies.

Page, G. (2008) *Being Byzantine. Greek identity before the Ottomans*. Cambridge: CUP.

Rietbergen, P. (1998) *Europe. A Cultural History*. London: Routledge.

Akçam, T. (2006) *From Empire to Republic. Turkish Nationalism & the Armenian Genocide*. London: Zed Books.

Harris, W.V. (2005) *Rethinking the Mediterranean*. Oxford: OUP.

Wickham, C. (2005) *Framing the Early Middle Ages. Europe and the Mediterranean 400–800*. Oxford: OUP.