

History 206
Trade, Travel, and War in the Modern Mediterranean
University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2016
Prof. Alex Chase-Levenson



The watery frontier between Europe and North Africa is now one of the most highly policed areas of the world. And yet, peoples on all Mediterranean coasts eat similar foods and tell similar jokes. In few other parts of the world do so many languages, religions, peoples, and nations converge in such a compressed area. These people crossed each other's borders, they traded goods and ideas, and they often went to war. Trade, travel, and war will help us understand how the Mediterranean contains many societies but at the same time, functions as a historical unit.

The Mediterranean has always been a place of contact and cosmopolitanism, of movement and mixing. Our focus in this course will be on the period from 1798 to 1923 (from Napoleon's invasion of Egypt to the end of the Ottoman Empire). Many of the major themes of world history during this period are particularly well illustrated in the Mediterranean—diplomacy and conflict between the “East” and the “West,” mobility and migration, imperial expansion, epidemic catastrophes, and great power politics. Cultural, diplomatic, political, military, and commercial encounters will be prominent, as we think about how the Mediterranean intersects with world history and how broader developments around the world affected the Mediterranean. Readings will be drawn from both primary and secondary sources.

Assignments:

1. Three 3–4 page response papers that you will write based on questions I will distribute each week. I will post questions each week, but you can choose any three weeks to write these. I encourage you to space out the papers during the semester so you do not face a crunch at the end, when you will also be working on your research paper. In each paper, you will be asked to incorporate one piece of visual evidence, one additional written primary source, and one secondary source in addition to the assigned course readings. (25%)

2. A final paper (between 10 and 12 pages) based on a research question of your own choosing in any aspect of modern Mediterranean history. You **MUST** clear your topic with me at least four weeks before the due date. The paper is due on the last day of class. I am happy to read and to give you comments on one draft of your paper if you turn it in two weeks before the deadline. (30%)
3. A presentation to the rest of the seminar (each student will present on a topic related to a given week's discussion. Topics and presentations will be assigned at the beginning of the semester). (15%)
4. A short map quiz, which you will take in the second week of class. (5%)
5. Course participation. The reading load is moderate, and in order to receive a high participation grade, you need to come each week prepared to discuss the readings in detail. (25%)

Course Books Available for Purchase at the Penn Book Center:

Robert Holland, *Blue-Water Empire: The British in the Mediterranean Since 1800*
Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts*

Aside from these two books, all readings will be available on the Canvas site. They will be posted at least a week before the relevant course meeting.

Course Absence Policy:

Attendance in class is important to lively discussions and there's no real way to make up a missed session. Planned absences should be discussed with the instructor well in advance. More than one absence for reasons other than illness, family crises, etc. will result in a hit to your participation grade.

Disability Policy:

If you have a disability that will affect your performance in the course in some way please let me know at the beginning of the semester.



Jan. 20th: Course Introduction

Jan. 27th: The Mediterranean and the World

Reading: Peregrine Horden and Nicholas Purcell, *The Corrupting Sea* (Pt. I: Frogs around a Pond: pp. 7-51)
Naor Ben-Yahoyada, "Mediterranean Modernity?" (*A Companion to Mediterranean History*, Peregrine Horden, ed.) [2014]

Feb. 3rd: The Mediterranean in the Age of Napoleon.

Reading: Robert Holland, *Blue Water Empire: The British in the Mediterranean Since 1800* [2012] (Intro. and Ch. 1)
Edward Said, *Orientalism* [1979] (pp. 1–10, 73–92)
Dominique Vivant-Denon *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt* A. Aikin, trans. [1804] (pp. 84–113)
Al-Jabarti, *History of Egypt Vol. III* [1798] T. Philipp, trans. (pp. 1–22, 69–75)

Feb. 10th: Antiquities Mania

Reading: Maya Jasanoff, *Edge of Empire: Lives, Conquest, and Culture in the East* [2005] (pp. 241–275)
Giovanni Belzoni, *Belzoni's Travels*, Albert Silotti, ed. (excerpts). [1820]

Feb. 17th: Romanticism and Philhellenism: The Greek War of Independence

Reading: Allan Cunningham "The Philhellenes, George Canning, and Greek Independence" in Edward Ingram, ed. *Eastern Questions in the Nineteenth Century*, [1993]
William St. Clair, *Lord Elgin and the Marbles* [1967] (Selections)
The Treaty of London, 1827

Feb. 24th: Empire in the Desert: The French in North Africa

Reading: Benjamin Brower, *A Desert Named Peace: The Violence of France's Empire* [2011] (Intro. and Ch. 1)
Paul Rabinow, *French Modern* [1989] (pp. 277–319)
Nancy Gallagher, *Medicine and Power in Tunisia* [2002] (Intro. and Chs. 2 and 4)

Mar. 2nd: Doing Business from Coast to Coast

Reading: P.J. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, *British Imperialism 1688-2000* [2002] (Ch. 12)
Roger Owen, *The Middle East in the World Economy* [1981] (pp. 83–121)
Alison Frank, "Children of the Desert and the Laws of the Sea" *AHR* (2012)

Mar. 16th: Great Power Politics: The Eastern Question and the Crimean War

Reading: Orlando Figes, *Crimea* [2009] (Ch. 2–4)
Robert Holland, *Blue Water Empire* (Ch. 3)
Stratford Canning, *The Eastern Question* [1881] (pp. 6–28)

Mar. 23rd: The Ottoman Empire: Decline and Dynamism

Reading: Donald Quataert, “Overview of the Nineteenth Century” in *An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire*, Quataert and Halil Inalcik, eds. [1994] (pp. 759–776)
Suraiya Faroqhi, *Approaching Ottoman History: An Introduction to the Sources* [1999] (Ch. 7)
Thomas Thornton, *The Present State of Turkey* [1807] (pp. 35–48, and 327–330)

Mar. 30th: Travelers Crossing the Great Sea

Reading: Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans* [1997] (pp. 89–115)
Alexander Kinglake, *Eothen: Traces of Travel in the East* [1846] (pp. 7–18, 78–103)
Florence Nightingale, *Letters from Egypt*, Anthony Sattin, ed. [1987] (selections)

April 6th: Mobility and Cosmopolitanism

Reading: Julia Clancy-Smith, *Mediterraneans* [2012] (Introduction and Ch. 2)
Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts* [2004] (Intro., Chs. 6, 8, 9–12)

April 13th: Britain in Egypt and the Holy Land

Reading: Robert Tignor, *Egypt: A Short History* [2011] (pp. 228–55)
Sarah Kochav, “Beginning at Jerusalem?: The Mission to the Jews and English Evangelical Eschatology,” in Y. Ben-Arieh, ed. *Jerusalem in the Mind of the Western World* [1997]
Simon Goldhill, *Jerusalem: City of Longing* [2010] (pp. 256–75)
Walter Miéville, *Under Queen and Khedive*: [1899] (Selections)

(Continued)

April 20th: Mediterranean Nationalisms

Reading: Mark Mazower, *The Balkans: A Short History* [2000] (pp. 113–144)
Young Turk Proclamation
Edward Dickey, *The Peasant State: An Account of Bulgaria* [1894] (excerpts)

April 27th: World War I and its Aftermath

Reading: Robert Holland, *Blue Water Empire* (Ch. 5)
Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, “Speech at the National Convention: 1927”

Final Paper Due in Class