

History 206
Trade, Travel, and War in the Modern Mediterranean
University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2017
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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. Weekly discussion questions. You will submit 1 question for discussion (about a paragraph in length) each week. (5%).
2. Two response papers. Twice during the semester, in response to a discussion question the instructor will present at the end of each class, you will be asked to write a 3-4 page response paper.

You have a choice on when to do this. For each response paper, you should incorporate one additional primary source and one piece of visual evidence. (20%)

3. 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%)

4. Port-city Pecha-Kucha. You will present a set of images that introduce to a particular Mediterranean port city (10%)

5. Boundary Crosser biography (10%). Your goal is to create a fictional life story (approx. 3-4 pages) that presents the plausible life of a nineteenth-century Mediterranean. Show how their life was shaped and effected by specific events, trends, and individuals we deal with in the course.

6. 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 Bookstore:

Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts*

Julia Clancy-Smith, *Mediterraneans: North Africa and Europe in an Age of Migration*

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.



Aug. 29th: Course Introduction

Sept. 5th: 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]

Sept. 12th: 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)

Sept. 19th: Antiquities Mania, Philhellenism, and The Greek War of Independence (Port-City Pecha-Kucha Presentations Due)

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)
Maya Jasanoff, *Edge of Empire: Lives, Conquest, and Culture in the East* [2005] (pp. 241–275)
The Treaty of London, 1827

Sept. 26th: 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)

Oct. 3rd: Doing Business from Coast to Coast

Reading: Julia Clancy-Smith, *Mediterraneans* [2012] (Ch. 5 and skim Chs. 3 and 4)
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)

Oct. 10th: Mediterranean Medicine

- Reading: Nancy Gallagher, *Medicine and Power in Tunisia* [2002] (Intro. and Chs. 2 and 4)
LaVerne Kuhnke, *Lives at Risk: Public Health in Egypt* (Chs. 1, 7, and 8)
A. Chase-Levenson, “Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean Quarantine as a European System” [2016]
Clot Bey, *The Memoirs of Dr. A. Clot-Bey* (Selections)

Oct. 17th: The Eastern Question and the Ottoman Empire

- Reading: Orlando Figes, *Crimea* [2009] (Ch. 2–4)
Stratford Canning, *The Eastern Question* [1881] (pp. 6–28)
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)

Oct. 24th: Travelers Crossing the Middle Sea

- Reading: Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans* [1997] (pp. 89–115)
Julia Clancy-Smith, *Mediterraneans* (Ch. 8)
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)

Oct. 31st: Mobility and Cosmopolitanism

- Reading: Julia Clancy-Smith, *Mediterraneans* (Introduction and Ch. 2)
Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts* [2004] (Intro., Chs. 6, 8, 9–12)
L. Caminati, “Alexandria, 1898” *CSSH* [2017]

Nov. 7th: Mediterranean Religions

- 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]
Andrew Porter, “Evangelicalism, Islam, and Millennial Expectation in the Nineteenth Century” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* [2000]
Abigail Green, “Sir Moses Montefiore and the Making of the ‘Jewish International’” *Modern Jewish Studies* [2008]
H. Sharkey, “The British and Foreign Bible Society in Port Said and the Suez Canal” *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* [2011]

(Continued)

Nov. 14th : Mediterranean Transportation
(Boundary Crosser Biographies Due)

Reading: TBD

Nov. 21st: Final Paper Workshops

Nov. 28th: Mediterranean Nationalisms

Reading: Mark Mazower, *The Balkans: A Short History* [2000] (pp. 113-44)
Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers* (Ch. 1)
Edward Dickey, *The Peasant State: An Account of Bulgaria* [1894] (Selections)
Young Turk Proclamation

Dec. 5th: World War I and its Aftermath

Reading: Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts* (Chs. 15, 16, 17, and 18)
Robert Holland, *Blue Water Empire* (Ch. 5)
Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, "Speech at the National Convention: 1927"

Final Paper due December 12th