



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Historical Spaces and the Mediterranean Sea - 45418

Last update 16-03-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Romance Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yuval Tal

Coordinator Email: yuval.tal@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yuval Tal

Course/Module description:

The Mediterranean as a geographical region, a cultural space, an economic unit, and an object of fantasy and imagination constitutes a foundational pillar of European, African, and Middle Eastern cultures and histories. From antiquity to the twenty-first century, intellectuals, writers, artists, and philosophers tried to capture and define what makes the Mediterranean unique, and thereby produced universal insights about human history and the human condition. In this course we examine some of the canonical works about the Mediterranean and Mediterranean culture, and discuss themes such as Mediterranean trade, multiculturalism, and colonialism. In addition, in each class we will learn about different historiographical theories and methodologies and examine how historians applied them in writing the history of the Mediterranean.

Course/Module aims:

Master the broad corpus of canonical texts from the period.
Describe the content of different sources.
Analyze texts as products of social, historical, and political contexts.
Recognize different genres of sources.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Master the broad corpus of canonical texts from the period.
Describe the content of different sources.
Analyze texts as products of social, historical, and political contexts.
Recognize different genres of sources.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures and class discussions

Course/Module Content:

Topics □□□□□□□□

1. Introduction
2. The Early Modern Mediterranean

David Abulafia, *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean*. New York, 2011, 392-427.

3. History and Geography in the Mediterranean I

Braudel, Fernand. *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, Vol. 1. Tr. Sian Reynolds. Berkeley, 1995. 17-22 [Preface to the First Edition]

4. History and Geography in the Mediterranean II

Braudel, Fernand. *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, Vol. 1. Tr. Sian Reynolds. Berkeley, 1995. 103-148 [The Heart of the Mediterranean].

5. Jewish Trade Networks

Francesca Trivellato, "The Port Jews of Livorno and their Global Networks of Trade in the Early Modern Period," *Jewish Culture and History* 7:1-2 (2004), 31-48.

6. Slaves and Captives I

Daniel Hershenzon, *The Captive Sea: Slavery, Communication, and Commerce in Early Modern Spain and the Mediterranean*, Philadelphia, 2019, 1-16.

7. Slaves and Captives II

Herzig, Tamar. "Slavery and Interethnic Sexual Violence: A Multiple Perpetrator Rape in Seventeenth-Century Livorno," *The American Historical Review* 127:1 (2022), 194-222.

8. Colonialism in the Mediterranean

David Abulafia, *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean*. New York, 2011, 545-561.

9. Immigrants in North Africa

Julia Clancy-Smith, "Making a Living in Pre-Colonial Tunisia: The Sea, Contraband and other Illicit Activities, c. 1830-81," *European Review of History* 19:1 (2012): 93-112.

10. Immigrants in Southern Europe

Mary Dewhurst Lewis, "The Strangeness of Foreigners: Policing Migration and Nation in Interwar Marseille," *French Politics, Culture & Society* 20:3 (2002): 65–96.

11. Nahda and Orientalism in Cairo

Samah Selim. *Popular Fiction, Translation and the Nahda in Egypt*. Cham, 2019. 47-69.

12. Mediterranean Identity and Colonialism in Algeria

אלבר קאמי, אדם הראשון, תל אביב, 1995.

13. Mediterranean Ethics

כהנוב, ז'קלין. ממזרח שמש. תל אביב, 1978.

Required Reading: Topics

1. Introduction

2. The Early Modern Mediterranean

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Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Oral Exam % 40

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 40 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 20 %

Additional information: