

History 310
History of the Mediterranean

Course Description

HIST 310 HISTORY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (3)

Three hours lecture per week

Examines the history of the Mediterranean over the last 3000 years. Special attention will be paid to the Greco-Roman heritage, the impact of Christianity and Islam, the rise of Italian merchants, and the tangle between Spain and the Ottoman Empire over the control of the sea.

All history is about human beings who are rational and make logical decisions within the context of their society. This last point is important, as societal norms and social obligations have a powerful impact on personal behavior. As such, this class will concern itself with three basic themes. The first of these is the question of identity. Or, to put it another way, how does one determine formal relations in societies? Who belongs, and who does not belong? The second is the relationship between the centre and periphery—that is to say, the relationship between that part of the world which is the center of consumption and that part which provides labor and raw materials. What factors cause the centre to change, and how does the periphery respond to domination by the centre? Thirdly, what role did the Mediterranean as a geographic entity play in the ancient world?

Course Objectives

At the end of this course the student will be able to A) describe the major stages of Mediterranean history to the Arab conquests; B) write explanations for the causes and consequences of the major political and social conflicts during the period in question; C) integrate a variety of research methods and academic disciplines to come to a holistic view of Mediterranean history, and D) develop and improve traditional reading and writing skills as well as internet research skills in dealing with historical events and documentation.

Examinations

There will be two in-class written examinations—the midterm and the final—and a research paper of 10-20 pages in length (not counting maps, figures, pictures, endnotes, and so forth). The midterm will be weighted at 30% of your grade, the final 40%, and the research paper 30%. The research paper will require the integration of secondary and primary-source material.

Academic Honesty

1. *Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.*
2. *Course instructors have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Instructors who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Instructors should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.*
3. *Instructors who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the instructors believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing grade on the particular paper, project or examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned. The instructors will file incident reports with the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs and for Student Affairs or their designees. These reports shall include a description of the alleged incident of academic dishonesty, any relevant documentation, and any recommendations for action that he/she deems appropriate.*
4. *The Vice President for Student Affairs shall maintain an Academic Dishonesty File of all cases of academic dishonesty with the appropriate documentation.*
5. *Student may appeal any actions taken on charges of academic dishonesty to the "Academic Appeals Board."*
6. *The Academic Appeals Board shall consist of faculty and at least one student.*
7. *Individuals may not participate as members of the Academic Appeals Board if they are participants in an appeal.*
8. *The decision of the Academic Appeals Board will be forwarded to the President of CSU Channel Islands, whose decision is final.*

Readings:

[Note: copies of the readings will be on reserve in the library]

Aubet, Maria *The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade*. [Aubet]
 Robin M Winkes and Susan Mattern-Parkes, *The Ancient Mediterranean World* [W&M]

Disclaimer

Information contained in this syllabus, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor

Class Outline

- 8/26 Introduction
- 8/86 Geographical Considerations [Aubet, 6]
- 9/2 Social Considerations
- 9/4 The Neolithic Mediterranean
- 9/9 The Bronze Age World [W&M 1, Aubet appendix I]
- 9/11 Mycenae and the Peoples of the Sea

- 9/16 The Mediterranean Recovery, 1100-800 BCE [Aubet 1-4]
- 9/18 Colonization, 800-500 BCE
- 9/23 Society and the Individual: the Classical World [W&M 2, Aubet 5]
- 9/25 The Central Mediterranean: Greeks, Phoenicians and Etruscans [Aubet, 7-10]
- 9/30 Persia [Aubet, appendix II]
- 10/2 Carthage and Sicily to 400
- 10/7 Democracy and Imperialism
- 10/9 The Dionysii and Carthage
- 10/14 Alexander and the Hellenistic World
- 10/16 **Midterm**
- 10/21 Pyrrhus and Alexander of Epirus: Greeks and the Central Mediterranean
- 10/23 The First Punic War [W&M 3]
- 10/28 The Second Punic War and Roman Expansion
- 10/30 The Third Punic War
- 11/4 Piracy and the Roman Republic
- 11/6 Rome: Empire, Empires or Commonwealth?
- 11/11 *Veteran's Day Holiday*
- 11/13 The Third Century Crisis?
- 11/18 Diocletian and the Roman Recovery?
- 11/20 Christianity Triumphant, 300-600 [W&M 4]
- 11/25 The Vandals and the Roman Empire in the West
- 11/27 *Thanksgiving Holiday*
- 12/2 Justinian: The Roman Empire Triumphant?
- 12/4 Carolingians, Romans and Islam: the Middle Ages?

Final Exam: Tuesday, 9 December, 8:00-10:00am (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)