

Modern Mediterranean History, 1798 to the Present



“The Mediterranean will become the bed / in which the East and the West shall wed.”
(Michel Chevalier, 1832)

HIST 229-02, Spring 2018

MWF 12:05-12:55 pm – **Humanities 2637**

Instructor: John Boonstra (boonstra@wisc.edu)

Office hours: **MW 1:30-2:30 pm** & by appointment (**University Club 227**)

Description of Course:

Situated in the middle of three continents, the Mediterranean Sea has for centuries brought together a diversity of peoples, cultures, goods, and ideas. This course will explore how modern European, North African, and Middle Eastern history has been shaped by the economic, political, and cultural encounters that have taken place across “the Middle Sea” from the late eighteenth century to the contemporary period. We will ask where and how these interactions occurred, what impressions they generated about “East” and “West,” and how transnational and cross-cultural contacts informed broader changes in modern society.

Ranging from merchants and migrants to tourists and refugees, Napoleon’s Egypt to Hitler’s Greece and Assad’s Syria, and the bazaars of Morocco to the slums of Paris, the topics of the course focus on the different ways in which men and women have interacted across the

Mediterranean, the historical circumstances that have brought them together, and the ideas and inequalities that have shaped these exchanges. We will study encounters both between individuals on everyday levels—in markets, ports, and city streets, on battlefields and soccer fields—and among empires, nations, and corporations. Major themes of the course include: the development of commercial capitalism, the violence of colonialism and world war, the upheavals and opportunities of immigration and mobility, and the unstable construction of political power and cultural knowledge between “Orient” and “Occident.”

Goals of the Course:

Throughout the course, we will emphasize not only *what* we are reading and learning, but also *how* to approach historical questions, problems, and documents. We will develop skills of close reading, analytical writing, and evaluating arguments that will help you engage the themes of the course as well as challenges outside of the history classroom. From migration to terrorism and to popular culture, the dynamics of cross-cultural contact that we will study have left a rich—and also disturbing—historical legacy, and we aim to understand how this history of interactions continues to influence today’s world.

Course Requirements:

This will be a reading-intensive course, with texts drawn from primary sources (including novels, memoirs, letters, and films), textbooks, and scholarly journals and monographs. You will each write **one 5-7 page paper** (worth 20% of your final grade) responding to a choice of questions I will provide, as well as two **one-page response essays** to selected readings (10%). **Two map quizzes** (5%) will be designed not to memorize national borders, but to identify geographical aspects central to different periods and themes in Mediterranean history.

For your **take-home mid-term exam**, you will compose a **4-5 page essay** (20% of your grade) in response to a given prompt. For your **5-7 page final paper** (20%), you will have the option of choosing your own topic (in consultation with me) or writing on a suggested theme. **Class participation** accounts for the **final 25%** of your grade. Friday sections will be devoted to in-class discussion; you are expected to have done the reading, to participate actively, and to listen and respond thoughtfully and respectfully, as we pose questions and debate themes of the week’s readings and lectures.

Grading:

One 5-7 page paper: **20%**

Two short response essays: **10%**

Class participation: **25%**

Two map quizzes: **5%**

Take-home mid-term essay: **20%**

Final paper: **20%**

Deadline Policy: All coursework must be turned in on time. Late assignments will be penalized one-third letter grade per day past the due date. For example, an A paper turned in one day late could earn an A- at best; two days late could earn a B+ at best, etc. Make sure to plan accordingly to be able to turn in assignments by the deadline. Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due at the beginning of class on the **Monday** of a given week.

Email and Office Hours

The best way to contact me is by email. I encourage you to check your email regularly, since this is also how I will get in touch with you outside of section. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours, but know that I will not necessarily be able to respond instantaneously.

Also know that emailing questions about lecture or readings cannot take the place of attending and engaging in class.

My office hours are **Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm, in University Club 227** (2nd floor), and by appointment. (The University Club is the brick building just east of Humanities; my office is on the south side).

Cell Phone/Screen Policy

You may NOT use laptop computers, phones, tablets, or any device with a screen during class. If you have a compelling reason to take notes on a computer, please see me.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism consists of presenting someone else's work as one's own, and will not be tolerated in any form. Attempts to plagiarize will be dealt with and disciplined promptly, both in this course and by the University. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, contact me or the Writing Center (6171 H.C. White, 608-263-1992).

See also: https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

Outside Resources: I highly encourage you to take advantage of academic services offered to undergraduates by the University:

The History Lab: The History Lab is a resource center where experts (PhD students) will assist you with your history papers. Sign up for a one-on-one consultation online: <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>

The Writing Center: Located in room 6171 of Helen C. White Hall, the Writing Center provides an invaluable resource for students, and offers help with all stages of the paper-writing process. <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/>

Credit-hours:

This three-credit class meets for three 50-minute class period each week and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, studying, etc) for about 2 hours out of classroom for every class period.

Books available for purchase (at the University Bookstore or online):

- Royall Tyler, *The Algerine Captive: or, The Life and Adventures of Doctor Updike Underhill, Six Years a Prisoner among the Algerines* (New York: Modern Library, 2002)
- Gebreyesus Hailu, *The Conscript: A Novel of Libya's Anticolonial War*, transl. Ghirmai Negash (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2012)
- Mark Mazower, *Inside Hitler's Greece: The Experience of Occupation, 1941-44* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001)
- Moulud Feraoun, *Journal, 1955-1962: Reflections on the French-Algerian War*, transl. Mary Ellen Wolf and Claude Fouillade (Lincoln, NE: Bison Books, 2000)
- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *A Palace in the Old Village*, transl. Linda Coverdale (New York: Penguin Books, 2011)
- Laurent Dubois, *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010)
- * Course Reader [available through **L&S Copy Center, Sewell Hall, Room 6120**]

All books are also available on Reserve at Helen C. White. All other readings can be found in the Course Reader (marked with *). Additional materials will be provided to you in advance, and/or are accessible for free online.

Part I: The Mediterranean Legacy

Week 1. The Mediterranean: Geography and History

W. (Jan. 24) Introduction to Course: Themes, Places, and Time

F. (Jan. 26) Centuries of Crossings: Early Modern Commerce and Trans-Mediterranean Connections

Readings:

- * David Abulafia, *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean* (2011)

Introduction, "A Sea with Many Names," pp. xxiii-xxxi and "Crossing the Sea," pp. 641-648

Week 2. The Early Modern Mediterranean

M. (Jan. 29) Politics of the Early Modern Mediterranean, from Philip II to the French Revolution

W. (Jan. 31) Empires across the Mediterranean: Corsairs, City-States, and Colonizers

F. (Feb. 2) Discussion: Where (and when) was the Mediterranean?

Readings:

- * Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II* (1972), Table of Contents, pp. 1-10, 649-653

- * Fernand Braudel, *Memory and the Mediterranean* (2001), Ch. 1, "Seeing the Sea," pp. 3-17

- * Manuel Borutta and Sakis Gekas, 'A Colonial Sea: the Mediterranean, 1798-1956,' *European Review of History* 2012 vol. 19 no. 1, pp. 1-13

Part II: Commerce, Conquest, and Knowledge in the Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean

Week 3. Corsairs, Slaves, and Capitalists in Early Modern Commerce

M. (Feb. 5) The Corsair State: From Piracy and Slavery to Merchant Capitalism

W. (Feb. 7) Missionaries and Militaries in North Africa and the Middle East

F. (Feb. 9) Discussion: Legacies of Piracy

Readings:

- Royall Tyler, *The Algerine Captive: or, The Life and Adventures of Doctor Updike Underhill, Six Years a Prisoner among the Algerines* (1802), Vol. 2, pp. 103-146, 154-198

- * Gillian Weiss, *Captives and Corsairs: France and Slavery in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (2011), Ch. 8, "The Conquest of Algiers," pp. 156-169

Week 4. Napoleon in Egypt, Arabs in France

- M. (Feb. 12) Invasion, Science, and Orientalism
W. (Feb. 14) Arabs, Romantics, and Revolutionaries across Europe
F. (Feb. 16) Discussion: What (and where) is Orientalism?

Readings:

- * Joseph-Marie Moiret, *Memoirs of Napoleon's Egyptian Expedition, 1798-1801*, Introduction, Ch. I-II, pp. 11-27, 35-43, 44-47
- * Robert L. Tignor, ed., *Napoleon in Egypt: Al-Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation, 1798* (1993), pp. 20-29
- * Rifa'a al-Tahtawi, "Reflects on Paris, Its People, Their Ideas, and Lives in the 1820's," in Akram Fouad Khater, ed., *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East* (2006), pp. 58-62

Week 5: Smugglers, Cities, and Sects: Economic and Religious Life in the 19th Century

*** FIRST SHORT RESPONSE ESSAY DUE ***

- M. (Feb. 19) Smugglers and Ostrich Feathers: Mediterranean Economies, Licit and Illicit
W. (Feb. 21) Christians, Muslims, and Jews across the Mediterranean
F. (Feb. 23) Discussion: Life in Mediterranean cities

Readings:

- * Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims, and Jews* (2004), Ch. 9, "Travellers and the European Imagination," pp. 175-191
- * Sarah Stein, *Plumes: Ostrich Feathers, Jews, and a Lost World of Global Commerce* (2008), Ch. 3, "The Trans-Saharan Trade: Mediterranean Connections," pp. 84-112.

Part III: Colonialism and Imperial Conflicts

Week 6. The Colonization of Algeria

- M. (Feb. 26) Invasion, Violence, and Empire
W. (Feb. 28) Seeing and Settling Algeria: Peoples, Politics, and Popular Culture
F. (March 2) Discussion: Colonizing empire, or bringing empire "home?"

Readings:

- * Alexis de Tocqueville, "Second Letter on Algeria" (1837) pp. 14-26
- * Guy de Maupassant, *African Wanderings* (1884), "Algiers," "The Province of Algeria," "From Algiers to Tunis," pp. 8-11, 32-49, 242-251

Week 7. Traveling Across the Mediterranean

*** 5-7 PAGE PAPER DUE ***

- M. (March 5) Colonization and the Canal in Egypt
W. (March 7) The "Civilizing Mission" in North Africa and the Middle East
F. (March 9) Discussion: Whose canal? Whose "civilization?"

Readings:

- * Baron Samuel Selig de Kusel, *An Englishman's Recollections of Egypt, 1863 to 1887* (1915), in Barbara Harlow and Mia Carter, ed.s, *Imperialism and Orientalism* (1999), Part II, "The Opening of the Suez Canal," pp. 117-120
- * Edith Wharton, *In Morocco* (1917), "Preface," "Leaving Tangier," "Fez: The First Vision," "Marrakech: The Bazaars," "Harems and Ceremonies: In Fez, In Marrakech," "General Lyautey's Work in Morocco," pp. vii-xi, 3-7, 77-83, 134-138, 187-205, 209-222
- * E.S. Stevens, *Cedars, Saints, and Sinners in Syria* (1926), Ch. 3, "The Lebanon as a Summer Resort," and Ch. 13, "Syrian Men and Women in Daily Life," pp. 47-56, 213-233

Week 8. Imagining and Inventing the Balkans

- M. (March 12) Mediterranean Eastern Europe, between Occident and Orient
- W. (March 14) The Ottoman Empire and the Young Turk Revolution
- F. (March 16) Discussion: Imperialism in the Balkans?

- * Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims, and Jews* (2004), Ch. 17, "The Muslim Exodus," pp. 311-332
- *Smyrna, The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City – 1900-1922* by Maria Eliou (2012) [film]
- * Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans* (2008), Ch. 5, "From Discovery to Invention, From Invention to Classification," pp. 116-139

Part IV: World Wars and Anti-Colonial Wars in the Mediterranean

Week 9. World War I and Interwar Imperialism

*** TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE ***

- M. (March 19) War, Borders, and Empires in Ottoman Europe
- W. (March 21) War, Colonialism, and Nationalism in the Middle East and North Africa
- F. (March 23) Discussion: Legacies of the Great War beyond Europe

Readings:

- * Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism* (2007), Ch. 3, "President Wilson Arrives in Cairo," pp. 63-76
- Lowell Thomas, "With Allenby in Palestine," (1919) travelogue photographs and interview: <http://library.marist.edu/archives/lttravelogues/travelogue/travel1.html>
- <http://library.marist.edu/archives/lttravelogues/Lowell%20Thomas/lowellthomas2.html>
- Gebreyesus Hailu, *The Conscript: A Novel of Libya's Anticolonial War* (1927) 64 pp.

*** SPRING BREAK *** (March 24 – April 1)

Week 10. World War II, Occupation, and Genocide

- M. (April 2) Nazi Colonization and the Holocaust in the Mediterranean
- W. (April 4) War from North Africa
- F. (April 6) Discussion: Forgotten Fronts of the Second World War?

Readings:

- Mark Mazower, *Inside Hitler's Greece: The Experience of Occupation, 1941-44* (2001), selections

- * George Patton, *War as I Knew It* (1947), pp. 5-9, 22-27, 35-41, 46-49, 65-79

Week 11. Decolonization and the Postwar Order

M. (April 9) The Violence of Decolonization: The Algerian Revolution

W. (April 11) Cold War in the Mediterranean

F. (April 13) Discussion: Legacies of War and Decolonization

Readings:

- Moulud Feraoun, *Journal, 1955-1962: Reflections on the French-Algerian War*, **selections**

- * Robert Grathwol and Donita Moorhus, *Bricks, Sand, and Marble: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction in the Mediterranean and Middle East, 1947-1991* (2009): "The Mediterranean and the Origins of the Cold War," pp. 1-8

Part V: Mobility and Migration

Week 12. Mass Tourism and Dictatorship in the Mediterranean

*** SECOND SHORT RESPONSE ESSAY DUE ***

M. (April 16) Postwar Leisure, Tourism, and Travel

W. (April 18) Dictatorship, Economy, and Politics from Spain to Egypt

F. (April 20) Discussion: Whose leisure? Whose dictatorship?

Readings:

- * Sasha D. Pack, *Tourism and Dictatorship: Europe's Peaceful Invasion of Franco's Spain* (2006), Ch. 1, "Travel and Tourism in Spanish History," pp. 17-38

- * Ellen Furlough, "Club Méditerranée, 1950-2002," in Luciano Segreto, Carles Manera, and Manfred Pohl, ed.s, *Europe at the Seaside: The Economic History of Mass Tourism in the Mediterranean* (2009), pp. 174-195

Week 13. Migration and Immigration

M. (April 23) Migration After the World Wars: Guest Workers, *Harkis*, and Families

W. (April 25) Postcolonial Legacies of (Im)migration

F. (April 27) Discussion: From North Africa to Europe, From Europe (Back) to North Africa

Readings:

- * David McMurray, *In and Out of Morocco: Smuggling and Migration in a Frontier Boomtown* (2000), Ch. 2, "Working Abroad but Dreaming of Home: The Story of Haddou," pp. 20-46

- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *A Palace in the Old Village* (2011) [novel]

Week 14. Human Rights and Refugees

M. Humanitarianism and Human Rights in Historical Context

W. Migration and Refugees in Contemporary Crisis

F. Discussion: From Armenia to Syria, Syria to Sweden (via Greece, Serbia, Hungary...)

Readings:

- * Hagop Arsenian and Ada Arsenian Ekmekji, “Surviving Massacre: Hagop Arsenian’s Armenian Journey to Jerusalem, 1915-1916,” *Jerusalem Quarterly* 49 (2012), pp. 26-42
- * Nicholas Schmidle, “Ten Borders: One Refugee’s Epic Escape from Syria,” *The New Yorker*, October 26, 2015
- Matthew Cassel and Aboud Shalhoub, “The Journey from Syria” (2016) [short film]

Week 15. Inclusion or Exclusion?

M. (April 30) The *Maillot* and the Veil: Sports, Religion, and Integration in the 1990s and 2000s

W. (May 2) Mediterranean History in the Twenty-First Century

F. (May 4) Discussion: The Mediterranean, between Europe and the Middle East?

Readings:

- Laurent Dubois, *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France* (2010), Ch.s 6-9 (“Two Flags,” “La France Métissée,” “An Unfinished War,” “Reconciliation”) and “Epilogue: Returns,” pp. 133-213, 267-274

- * Joan Scott, *Politics of the Veil*, selections from Introduction and Ch. 2, “Racism,” pp. 1-5, 42-45, 54-61, 67-75, 79-89

- Faudel, *Mon pays* [song], http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGhxQb56_4 (I will provide lyrics and translation)

- Walid Mimoun, *Dchar inou* [song], <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebQHmIQES2E> (I will provide lyrics and translation)

*** FINAL PAPER DUE: May 10 ***