

French/Italian 8602  
T 2:20 pm – 5:00 pm, Hagerty 206  
Autumn 2019

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Office hours: Tuesday 1-2pm and by appointment, Hagerty 220

## THE MIDDLE SEA: THEORIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Over the past decade, scholars have increasingly employed a Mediterranean perspective to think outside the inherited frameworks of area studies. A Mediterranean perspective can encourage interdisciplinarity and comparison in research across the political, cultural, and linguistic borders that structure both the contemporary world and the contemporary academy. More than simply substituting the geography of the Mediterranean for the received geographies of Europe, Asia, and Africa, researchers in the growing field of Mediterranean Studies have developed a rich body of theory describing the critical potential of a Mediterranean lens. In this course we will survey Mediterranean theory from its inception in Fernand Braudel's magisterial *Mediterranean* (1949) through recent work by historians, classicists, artists and writers, anthropologists, and scholars of literature. We will explore the potentials – and pitfalls – of a Mediterranean perspective across disciplines and perform a meta-scholarly analysis of the development of this nascent field.

### Requirements

- Class participation and attendance – 35 points
- Weekly responses – 10 points
- Final paper idea and proposal – 5 points
- Final paper presentation – 10 points
- Peer editing – 5 points
- Final paper – 35 points

### Departmental Grading Scale:

A 93-100	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 65-67
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	E 64-0
B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	

### Books (some pdfs provided on Carmen; some available through OSU library)

- ABULAFIA, DAVID. *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean*. Pdf provided.
- ALDRICH, ROBERT. *The Seduction of the Mediterranean: Writing, Art, and Homosexual Fantasy*. Pdf provided.
- BRAUDEL, FERNAND. *The Mediterranean And the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*. Vols I and II. Pdf provided.
- \*BROODBANK, CYPRIAN. *The Making of the Middle Sea*.
- CASSANO, FRANCO. *Southern Thought*. Project Muse edition available through OSU library.
- \*CHAMBERS, IAIN. *Mediterranean Crossings: The Politics of an Interrupted Modernity*.
- \*CLANCY-SMITH, JULIA. *Mediterraneans: North Africa And Europe In an Age of Migration, C. 1800-1900*.
- DERRIDA, JACQUES. *Monolingualism of the Other, Or, The Prosthesis of Origin*. Pdf provided.
- \*HORDEN, PEREGRINE, AND NICHOLAS PURCELL. *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History*.
- HORDEN, PEREGRINE, AND SHARON KINOSHITA, eds. *A Companion to Mediterranean History*. Wiley Online Library version available through OSU library.
- MALLETTE, KARLA. *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean: Toward a New Philology and a Counter-Orientalism*. Project Muse version available through OSU library.
- \*\*MATVEJEVIĆ, PREDRAG. *Mediterranean: A Cultural Landscape*.
- (\* = digital copy unavailable, book available for purchase at Barnes and Noble or online)  
(\*\* = out of print; copies available through Interlibrary Loan and Amazon, AbeBooks, etc.)

### Articles (all pdfs available on Carmen)

- BORUTTA, MANUEL, AND SAKIS GEKAS. "A Colonial Sea: The Mediterranean 1798-1956." *European Revue of History*. Vol. 19, No. 1, 2012, pp. 1-13.
- BURKE, EDMUND III. "Toward a Comparative History of the Modern Mediterranean, 1750-1919." *Journal of World History* vol. 23, no. 4, 2012, pp. 907-939.
- CAMUS, ALBERT. "The New Mediterranean Culture."
- DRIESSEN, HENK. "Mediterranean Port Cities: Cosmopolitanism Reconsidered." *History and Anthropology* vol. 16, no. 1, 2005, pp. 129-141.
- FAHMY, ZIAD. "Jurisdictional Borderlands: Extraterritoriality and 'Legal Chameleons' in Precolonial Alexandria, 1840-1870." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 55, no. 2, 2013, pp. 305-329
- HERZFELD, MICHAEL. "The Horns of the Mediterraneanist Dilemma." *American Ethnologist* vol. 11, no. 3, 1984, pp. 439-454.
- HERZFELD, MICHAEL. "Practical Mediterraneanism: Excuses for Everything, from Epistemology to Eating." *Rethinking the Mediterranean*, edited by W. V. Harris, Oxford University Press, pp. 45-63.
- MABRO, ROBERT. "Alexandria 1860-1960: the cosmopolitan identity." *Alexandria, Real and Imagined*, edited by Anthony Hirst and Michael Silk, Ashgate, 2004, pp. 247-262.

### Participation (attendance, quality of classroom interaction)

Regular attendance and participation are essential in a graduate seminar. In particular, consistent, respectful, and informed participation is expected from every student in the course. Students should prepare carefully for class by completing all readings in advance. Participation should be thoughtful, respectful, and critical.

### Weekly Response Papers

Beginning with week two (Aug 27) and continuing through week 15 (Nov 26), students will write **TEN short papers** in which they respond to the readings (250-300 words). On weeks where students pursue readings tailored to their individual interests, this response must address the relationship between their individual readings and the whole class reading assignment. Although these are informal responses, your writing should reflect careful consideration of the readings. This will help you to frame your ideas in order to be prepared to discuss them in class. Each response is worth 1 point (ten points total).

### Oral Presentation of Final Paper

A formal presentation of the early stages of your paper. Many of you regularly present conference papers, so think of this as a friendly, but formal, venue in which to present paper ideas at a developing stage. Presentations should last no more than ten minutes (I will moderate and will pass a note when it is time to wind up). Please prepare either a slide presentation to accompany your talk or a handout to pass out to the group. After the presentation, the group will pose questions to the presenter and we will engage in a short discussion of the presentation. Your grade will be based both on your presentation (6 pts) and your engagement with your peers' presentations (4 pts).

### Final Project

Your final paper may address any topic of your interest, in the context of the field of Mediterranean Studies. This may entail a close reading of a source or sources, a historical argument, a theoretical discourse, or more. Use our course materials as inspiration, and remember to make a choice relevant to your own interests! Your final project for a graduate seminar should, ideally, be a draft of something you hope to publish. I invite you to think carefully about this and discuss with me your interests and ideas early in the semester. All students are required to meet with the instructor in November to discuss their ideas and progress after submitting their paper proposals. **The final paper will be due on Tuesday, December 11.** Please use MLA or Chicago format, size 12 Times font, 1-inch margins, ~20 double-spaced pages. Papers will be evaluated based on strength and consistency of argument (15 pts), selection and use of evidence (15 pts), and adherence to formatting conventions (5 pts).

### A Note on Using Technology in Class

Although research continues to suggest that reading from and taking notes on a paper copy of a text results in better analysis and retention of information, given the large number of readings for this course you are welcome to read on a digital device. You may use any digital reader to follow along in class, if that is your preference. I strongly suggest turning off Wi-Fi during class to minimize the possibility of digital distraction. Please be respectful of your, your classmates' and your instructor's time and attention.

### **Statement on Commitment to Diversity**

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

### **Statement on Sexual Misconduct/relationship Violence**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu).

### **Academic Integrity**

As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is the representation of another's words or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). After the report is filed, a hearing takes place, and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in work that is not his or her own, and plagiarism search engines make documenting the offense very simple.

To preserve the integrity of OSU as an institution of higher learning, to maintain your own integrity, and to avoid jeopardizing your future, DO NOT PLAGIARIZE! To understand better academic integrity, see Ohio State's Code of Student Conduct at <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/> and COAM's Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity at <http://oaa.osu.edu/coamtensuggestions.html>

**Please note: Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty.** For more information on this topic, consult the Ohio State University's policy on Student code of conduct at: [http://oaa.osu.edu/assets/files/documents/csc\\_12-31-07.pdf](http://oaa.osu.edu/assets/files/documents/csc_12-31-07.pdf)

### **Disability Services**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office for Disability Services (ODS) <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/> . Please contact ODS at (614) 292-3307 or (614) 429-1334 (VRS). Students should also contact me as soon as possible to explore potential accommodations.

## **Reading and Assignment Schedule** (exact reading selections are subject to change)

**Aug 20:** Introductions and CAMUS (read pdf before class); watch UNESCO Mediterranean Diet nomination film in class.

### **Comprehensive Histories**

**Aug 27:** BRAUDEL selections: 1-53 (incl. table of contents and prefaces), 85-95, 101-108, 138-171, 231-267 – pdf provided.

**Sep 3:** HORDEN AND PURCELL selections: 1-50 (and table of contents), 461-529.

**Sep 10:** ABULAFIA selections: xi-1, Part 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5\*, 641-648 – pdf provided.  
\*students will read the part that corresponds with their research period

**Sep 17:** CLASS CANCELLED

**Sep 24:** BROODBANK selections: chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 11

### **Historical Case Studies**

**Oct 1:** MALLETT esp. chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7.

**Oct 8: Final paper topic ideas due** (a few sentences describing area of interest); discussion of research strategies; CLANCY-SMITH esp. introduction, chapters 1, 2, 6, epilogue.

### **The Mediterranean Writes Back**

**Oct 15:** MATVEJEVIC all

**Oct 22:** DERRIDA all - pdf provided – and CASSANO esp. parts 1, 2, 4

**Oct 29:** CHAMBERS all

### **Cosmopolitan Problems**

**Nov 5: Final paper proposals due** (abstract of 250-350 words and tentative bibliography); DRIESSEN, FAHMY, BORUTTA AND GEKAS, and MABRO articles - pdfs provided.

### **A Case Study in Minor Discourse: Europe's Homoerotic Gaze**

**Nov 12:** ALDRICH esp. introduction, chapters 1, 5, 6, 7, conclusion – pdf provided.

### **The State of the Field**

**Nov 19:** HORDEN AND KINOSHITA selections: Introduction, chapter 2, one chapter from part II, chapters 11, 17, 20, 23, one chapter from part VII – pdf provided.

### **Against the Mediterranean?**

**Nov 26:** HERZFELD 1 and 2 and BURKE – pdfs provided. **Peer editing day for papers/presentations.**

**Dec 4: Final paper presentations.**