

Coexistence & Conflict in the Modern Mediterranean World

HS 130 / IS 130 Tuesday/Thursday 2:10 – 3:50 pm, Taylor 210

Fall 2006

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Or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Coexistence and Conflict in the Modern Mediterranean World course enables students to become knowledgeable about the geopolitically strategic as well as socio-cultural importance of the Mediterranean region, both historically and in the modern era. Students will learn about the strategic waterways, land, and air routes, the Suez Canal, and the nature of war and peace and how the conflicts in the region have affected global peace, stability, and security. The course examines the Arab-Israeli conflict, the impact of immigration and migration into the EU, trade patterns, and cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic identities and how they affect regional relations.

The HS/IS 130 Coexistence and Conflict in the Modern Mediterranean World course enables students to learn and understand the following perspectives of the subject, which would be the intended objectives and the impact of the course on the students' learning experience:

Historical Awareness: The readings, guest speakers, films, and other audio-visual media will provide a general historical overview of the history, cultures, languages and literature, religions, politics, economics, war and peace, and overall geopolitical importance of the region.

Multicultural and International Perspectives: This course examines how diverse cultural, religious, sociological, linguistic, ideological, leadership, communications, and geopolitical factors have played a prominent role in the intra- and inter-regional relations of the Mediterranean region, and how these factors have had an impact on regional and global peace, security, and trade/economic relations.

Ethics and Social Responsibility: The course investigates the importance of perceived moral values and their subjectivity in mainly the Western perceptions about the Mediterranean region. Conflict in the Modern Mediterranean World addresses such questions as: what is the "moral responsibility" of scholars in International Studies to present a balanced, multi-disciplinary perspective of nonwestern regional studies?

Rhetoric: Students will understand the hidden meanings of texts, speeches, and propaganda, and draw their own conclusions and analyses about them.

Multidisciplinary Analyses: Students will learn how to interpret the historical and contemporary events pertaining to the Mediterranean region from a multidisciplinary perspective.

In addition, the objectives of the course are to address and answer the following questions:

- Why is the Mediterranean region important?
- How do the diverse identities within the sub-regions of the Mediterranean affect their relations with each other?
- How have trade relations in the region been formed historically, and in the modern era?

- What makes the Mediterranean region so strategically and geopolitically important? How has this importance affected regional and global peace, security, and stability?
- How can the diverse cultures and identities within the Mediterranean region be characterized?
- How have wars and conflicts in the region affected people within and outside the region? What have the immigration, migration, and refugee patterns been like throughout the years?
- What is the Arab-Israeli conflict all about? Why has it been such a long-running conflict in modern history? And how has it affected regional and global peace, security, and stability?
- Why is a multi-disciplinary approach to studying the Mediterranean important and even imperative?
- What is the significance of having the EU right at the doorstep of the Mediterranean region?
- Why should you study the Mediterranean region?

COURSE TEXTS

The Travels of Ibn Battuta in the Near East, Asia, and Africa, 1325-1354. Translated by Samuel Lee (Dover Publications, 2004). ISBN: 0486437655. \$11.02 Pb.

Richard L. Smith, *Ahmad al-Mansur: Islamic Visionary* (Longman, 2006). ISBN: 0321250443. \$20.00 Pb.

Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1995). ISBN: 0062502182. \$10.01 Pb.

Hayat Alvi-Aziz, *Regional Integration in the Middle East: An Analysis of Inter-Arab Cooperation* (University Press of America, 2006).

SELECTED READINGS

Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddimah*. Translated by Franz Rosenthal (1969). ISBN: 0691017549. \$29.95 Pb.

FILMS

“Lion of the Desert”

“The Battle of Algiers”

Clips from “50 Years War: Israel and the Arabs”

Clips from “Inside Islam” History Channel documentary

“The Crusades: Crescent & the Cross” History Channel film

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed a total of 3 unexcused absences for the whole semester. More than three unexcused absences will affect students’ grade. Twelve or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic ‘F’ for the course grade.

Assignments: **Book Reviews:** Students are required to write two 3-page book reviews of Richard L. Smith’s book, *Ahmad al-Mansur*, and Paulo Coelho’s book, *The Alchemist*.

Film Review: Students are required to write two 3-page film reviews of the film “Lion of the Desert” and the film “The Battle of Algiers.”

Essay Assignments: Students are required to write two short essays (maximum 4 pages) addressing a question/subject that the instructor will provide.

In-class Discussion: Students are expected to participate in the class discussions pertaining to the reading assignments and supplementary material.

Online Discussion: Students are required to participate in online discussions. Often the instructor will post additional readings online, which students should read and engage in discussions about them.

Exams: There will be 2 exams: a midterm and a final exam.

Grading:	Book Reviews:	10%	Final Exam:	20%
	Film Reviews:	10%	Attendance:	20%
	Essay Assignments:	10%	Participation:	15%
	Midterm Exam:	15%		

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	A+	96-100	D+	66-69
	A	93-95	D	63-65
	A-	90-92	D-	60-62
	B+	86-89	F	0-59
	B	83-85		
	B-	80-82		
	C+	76-79		
	C	73-75		
	C-	70-72		

Class Rules and Policies

1. Please turn off your cell phones in class.
2. Please do not leave during class.
3. Please do not be tardy to class.
4. There will be no make-up exams offered.
5. Late assignments will receive grade reductions of 10% for every 24 hours that they are late.
6. Any forms of **plagiarism** and/or academic dishonesty will be reported to the proper university authorities and appropriate actions will be taken.
Refer to www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_home.html for information and resources for students to learn about avoiding plagiarism.

COURSE OUTLINE

August 30, 2006	Classes Start: Introduction: Learning the Geography of the Mediterranean
Week 1:	Ancient Greek and Roman Civilizations and Empires Islamic/Arab Conquests in the Region <i>The Travels of Ibn Battuta in the Near East, Asia, and Africa, 1325-1354</i>
Week 2:	Film Clips: “Inside Islam” and “The Crusades” Selected readings from Ibn Khaldun’s <i>Al-Muqaddimah</i>
Week 3:	Lecture/Discussions: The Early Empires; The Crusades; Ibn Battuta and Ibn Khaldun – Learning about the political and sociological history of the region
Week 4:	Lecture/Discussions: The Impact of Colonialism on the Region
Week 5:	Film Clips: “50 Years War: Israel and the Arabs”
Week 6:	Lecture/Discussions: Colonialism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict First Essay Assignment DUE
Week 7:	Watch Films: “Battle of Algiers” and “Lion of the Desert”
Week 8:	Lecture/Discussions: About the films Film Reviews for “Battle of Algiers” and “Lion of the Desert” DUE Review for Midterm
Week 9:	Midterm Exam
Week 10:	Richard L. Smith, <i>Ahmad al-Mansur: Islamic Visionary</i> Lecture/Discussions: The formation of independent nation-states in the region
Week 11:	Lecture/Discussions: Post-colonial state formation in the region Lecture/Discussions: The role of Islam in politics and culture in the region Paulo Coelho, <i>The Alchemist</i>
Week 12:	<i>Ahmad al-Mansur</i> Book Review DUE Lecture/Discussions: The story of <i>The Alchemist</i>
Week 13:	Discussions of the Alchemist continued <i>The Alchemist</i> Book Review DUE
November 22-24:	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
Week 15:	Second Essay Assignment DUE
Week 16:	Review for Final Exam
Exam Week:	December 12-19th