The Mediterranean in History and Anthropology

Instructor: Konstantina Zanou
Spring 2017 - Seminar
Monday, 4.10-6 pm, Hamilton 501

Office hours: Monday 9.30-10.30 am and by appointment, Hamilton 513

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will offer an overview of historical and anthropological writing on the Mediterranean from the birth of the field through the pages of Fernand Braudel’s celebrated book in the 1940s to the present day. It will trace the shifts in the ways we understand the Mediterranean by examining the sea as a malleable geographical space, which changes over time. It will explore topics such as the macro- and micro-histories of the Sea; the ‘history in’ and the ‘history of’ the Mediterranean; ‘anti-Mediterraneanism’; the revolutionary Mediterraneans; the colonial Mediterranean; the Grand Tour; the migrants in the Mediterranean; Italy in the Mediterranean, and others. Looking at the sea can tell us a lot about human life on land and can change our perspective on how we view this and other parts of the world.
READINGS:
• Most readings will be available on Courseworks. The few readings that will not be there, are available in Butler library online or in the reserve list.
• Make sure to come to class with a hard or electronic copy of all the assigned readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance. You are expected to attend every class meeting and to arrive on time. In the event that you must miss a class due to religious observance, illness, or a family emergency, please notify me in advance (whenever possible). Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.

* Attendance includes your presence in at least four of the events of ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’ and your active participation in the discussions of these events (apart from one, these events will take place on Mondays, 6.30-8 pm)

Class Participation. This is a discussion-driven course. You are required to come to each session prepared to talk about and analyze the weekly readings.

Class Conduct. I expect that you will treat your peers and their ideas with consideration and respect. That means, among other things, that your cell phones must be turned off or silenced (no sounds or vibration) and put away for the duration of the seminar. You can use a laptop or tablet only for note-taking purposes.

Method of Evaluation. Aside from your attendance and participation, there are two other factors of assessment:

1. Either weekly written responses, Or prepared questions in bullet points to discuss in class, Or class presentations: This is a course that uses various and alternating modes of evaluation. Most of the weeks one or two students will help lead discussion by giving a short, 15-minute presentation of one or more of the assigned readings. These presentations will be evaluated on their performance, organization and concision, as well as on how well they draw out issues and themes for class discussion. In those weeks the rest of the students will have prepared at home some questions or points to
discuss in class (you do not need to give me these bullet-points, but I would like to see you addressing them in class). However, in some weeks there will be no presentation in class. In those weeks instead all students will be writing 2-page double-spaced papers, intended as informal (though always well-written!) responses to the weekly readings. These responses should reflect your comments, questions and/or thoughts about what you read. These papers are due by 9 am on Monday and should be sent by email attachment (in .doc, .docx or .pdf format).

2. **Final paper**: One final paper (14-16 double-spaced pages for undergraduates; 18-20 double-spaced pages for graduate students – bibliography included). This will be either a critical, interpretative and perhaps comparative paper on one or more of the books we will be treating in class, or an assessment of a specific subject or a question. Students are expected to consult with me on the topic and scope of their essays and discuss departing points and further readings. They should present a draft of their final paper in the last class and receive comments and feedback by their instructor and classmates. The final paper is due by **Monday, May 15** (sent by email attachment in .doc, .docx or .pdf format).

**Grading.**

Class participation (including attendance, presence and addressing your weekly bullet-points in class discussions, and active presence in ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’): 40 %

Class presentation & weekly written responses: 20 %

Final paper (including the presentation of its draft in class): 40 %

* Be punctual in turning in your weekly responses and final paper. I do not accept late papers, except for reasons of illness or personal or family crisis.

**DISABILITIES:**

If you are a student with a disability and have an DS-certified ‘Accommodation Letter’ please come to my office hours to confirm your accommodation needs. If
you believe that you might have a disability that requires accommodation, you should contact Disability Services at 212-854-2388 and disability@columbia.edu.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.

Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars' work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

For more information on academic integrity at Columbia, students may refer to the Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity:
http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity
WEEKLY SYLLABUS:

Week 1: Jan 23  Braudel's Mediterranean

Required readings:


Week 2: Jan 30  The ‘New Thalassology’

Presentation by Michael — questions/points to discuss by the rest

Required readings:


**Week 3:  Feb 6  Human Mediterraneans**

Presentation by Isabella — questions/points to discuss by the rest

**Required readings:**


**Week 4:  Feb 13  The Venetian Mediterranean**

* Required attendance of the panel EAST OF VENICE: La Serenissima as Seen from its Eastern Frontiers (Konstantina Zanou, Moderator. Panelists: Larry Wolff | Molly Greene | Patricia Fortini Brown | Daphne Lappa), *Mon., Feb 13, 5.30 pm.* Co-presented by Columbia University’s Department of Italian, The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America and Carnegie Hall, within the framework of the festival *La Serenissima: Music and Arts from the Venetian Republic*

Written responses by all due on Monday 9 am + active participation in panel. No class

**Required readings:**


Week 5:  Feb 20  Revolutionary Mediterraneans

* ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’ presents an open lecture on the subject by Maurizio Isabella, Associate Professor of History, Queen Mary University of London — Wed., Feb 22, 6.30 pm

Presentation by two students (Marco on Stites and Fiona on the two articles) — questions/points to discuss by the rest (half one reading, half the other)

Required readings:


  OR


Week 6:  Feb 27  Mobilities in the Mediterranean

Presentation by Alex and Isabella in collaboration — questions/points to discuss by the rest

Required readings:


- Dominique Kirchner Reill, ‘Away or Homeward Bound? The Slippery Case of Mediterranean Place in the Era before Nation-States’, in M. Isabella and K.

**Week 7: March 6 Mediterranean Intellectual History**

Presentation by Margaret — questions/points to discuss by the rest

**Required readings:**


**Week 8: March 20 Captives and Slaves in the Mediterranean**

* ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’ presents an open lecture on the subject by Daniel Hershenzon, Assistant Professor of History, University of Connecticut — Mon., March 20, 6.30 pm

Presentation by Michael — questions/points to discuss by the rest

**Required readings:**


**Week 9: March 27 Traveling in the Mediterranean: the Grand Tour and beyond**
Presentation by Alex — questions/points to discuss by the rest

* ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’ presents an open lecture on the subject by Gilles Bertrand, Professor of Early Modern History, University of Grenoble II, France — Mon., March 27, 6.30 pm

Required readings:


Week 10: April 3  The Colonial Mediterranean

* ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’ presents an open lecture on the subject by Andrew Arsan, University Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History, University of Cambridge — Mon., April 3, 6.30 pm

Presentation by Marco — questions/points to discuss by the rest

Required readings:


**Week 11: April 10  Italy in the Mediterranean**

Class screening of the film *Fuocoammare* (Fire at sea) by Gianfranco Rosi [2016, 108 mins]

No presentation in class. Written responses by all due on Monday 9 am + keep notes on film, which we will discuss next time in relation to your old and new readings

**Required readings:**


  OR [for Italian-speakers]

  ‘Il pensiero meridiano oggi: intervista e dialoghi con Franco Cassano’ [video clip, 6 mins]

**Week 12: April 17  Contemporary Migration in the Mediterranean**

* ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’ presents an open lecture on the subject by Yannis Hamilakis, Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Modern Greek Studies, Brown University — Mon., April 17, 6.30 pm

Presentation by Margaret — questions/ points to discuss by the rest

**Required readings:**
Week 13: April 24  The Mediterranean in Anthropology

* ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’ presents an open lecture on the subject by Naor Ben-Yehoyada, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University — Mon., April 24, 6:30 pm

Presentation by Fiona — questions/ points to discuss by the rest

Required readings:

- Naor Ben-Yehoyada, ‘Mediterraneanist Anthropology’ (unpublished paper)

Week 14: May 1  Presentation of Students’ Final Paper drafts

Final Paper due: May 15, Monday