



## **POL 236T, Introduction to Mediterranean Studies, Spring 2019**

### **I. COURSE INFORMATION**

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Instructor: Dr. Morris M. Mottale

Instructor's Email: [mmottale@fus.edu](mailto:mmottale@fus.edu)

Co-instructor: Dr. Greg Warden

Office Hours: M. 9:00-11:00 and W. 9:00 – 12 or by appointment, OFFICE 5, MV.

Class location: MV 5

Class meeting times: **M – TH at 04:00 – 05:15 PM**

### **II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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This course will introduce students to the historical components that contributed to the creation and evolution of civilizations on both sides of the Mediterranean. The course will focus on the Ancient Middle East, Judaism, the Greek and Roman world, Christianity, the world of Islam, Italy, and Spain. It will be complemented with a travel to Sicily, where its heritage includes all these elements. Professor Warden will give specific lectures on archeology and the study of ancient civilizations.

### **III. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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The goal of this class is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of the evolution of civilizations in the Mediterranean world in terms of conflict, cooperation, and synthesis and of their contribution to today's Mediterranean world and states.

### **IV. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

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Ferdinand Braudel. *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*. Vol I & II.

Translated from the French by Sian Reynolds. University of California Press: Berkley, 1995.

John Julius Norwich. *Sicily: an Island at the Crossroads of History*. Random House: New York, 2015.

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor through e-mail.

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## **VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

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Students will be assessed upon the basis of their performance on a midterm examination, a research paper, their attendance and participation in class lectures and discussions, and a final examination. The midterm is worth 15%, research paper is worth 20%, and attendance is worth 15%. The research paper must be a minimum of ten pages, devoted to a topic related the politics, society, and civilizations of the Mediterranean world. Research will be judged by the ability to use readings and to produce a relevant, original analysis, not a summary. Topics must be discussed and approved by instructor beforehand, and must be submitted in a ½ page proposal by the specified date. A student's ability to employ formal English is an expectation. Correct formatting (Times New Roman font, 12pt, Chicago-style citation) will be standard for the submission. The class final will count as 50% of grade. **Cheating and plagiarism will be severely punished. See official policy in the University Catalog.**

## **XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

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Refer to the full statement in the catalogue.

## **XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE**

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### **Schedule of Lectures**

**WEEK 1** Introduction to the subject: substance and methodology

**WEEK 2** The Ancient Middle East: Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, Persia Part I

**WEEK 3** The Ancient Middle East: Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, Persia Part II

**WEEK 4** Greek Civilization and the Hellenistic component

**WEEK 5** The Ascent of Rome: *Carthago Delenda Est*

**WEEK 6** Christianity and Judaism: St. Paul

**WEEK 7** The Rise of Islam and the Arab Conquests: the Destruction of the Byzantine and Sassanian Empires

**WEEK 8** Travel

**WEEK 9** Travel

**WEEK 10** The Clash of Civilizations: Islam against Christianity, Turks and Arabs, the Crusades and the Muslim invasions of Spain and the Balkans

**WEEK 11** Italy and Spain

**WEEK 12** The Renaissance and the Formation of Modern European Civilization in the Mediterranean World

**WEEK 13** Review for the Final Exam

### **Readings Schedule**

WEEK 1) Braudel vol. I, Chapter 1

WEEK 2) Articles to be assigned

WEEK 3) Articles to be assigned

WEEK 4) Norwhich, Chapter 1

WEEK 5) Norwhich, Chapter 2 & 3

WEEK 6) Braudel, Begin reading Vol. II – Norwhich, Chapter 8

WEEK 7) Norwhich, Chapter 4

WEEK 8) Travel: Norwhich Chapters 9 - 13

WEEK 9) Travel: Norwhich Chapters 14 - 17

WEEK 10) Braudel Vol. II, part III, keep reading and articles to be assigned

WEEK 11) Keep reading Braudel vol. II, and articles to be assigned

WEEK 12) Keep reading Braudel vol. II, and articles to be assigned

### **Question for Midterm Examination**

What is a civilization?

**Date of Midterm Examination: Feb. 28, 2019**

### **Due Dates for Research Paper:**

**Date for Topic Submission (1/2 page proposal): Feb. 11, 2019**

**Date for Paper Submission: April 8, 2019 (Late papers will be penalized)**

### **Study Question for Final Examination**

What may explain the rise and fall of civilizations?

**Other questions to be arranged.**

**Date of Final Examination: Please see finals schedule.**