

History 207 02
Mediterranean World (Prehistory to 600 CE)
Spring Semester, 2016
MHRM 1215, 10:00-10:50 MWF

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Office Hours: MW 11-12

Introduction: This class will focus on the eastern and western civilizations of the Mediterranean from the origins of man to the end of antiquity around the seventh century CE. The class will pay particular attention to the evolution and continuity of Mediterranean peoples and societies, recurring themes in different locations and times, causality of historical events, and cultural diffusion and diversity. The class will also spend time examining primary sources from Mediterranean antiquity to gain further knowledge of how people viewed their time and place through stories, art, and material culture.

Class Objectives: The UNCG department of history has composed a list of 4 key learning goals for history majors. While some of you are not history majors, these goals are still important in establishing guidelines for how we approach the subjects. The department guidelines are as follows:

- 1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]**
- 2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]**
- 3. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Research]**
- 4. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation]**

Academic Integrity: The student must not misrepresent work that is not their own. This is called plagiarism. Any student practicing plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs for further action, and receive a failing grade in this class. It is very important to me to hear your own interpretation of the material in your own words. If you strive toward this goal, consistently attend class, study for tests and quizzes, and participate thoughtfully in discussion you will do well in the course. For more information on academic integrity see: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete>

Canvas:

We will be using Canvas for assignments, announcements, and email communication. It will help to become familiar with it as soon as possible. I will post an active syllabus through Canvas that may change through the course of the semester. Keep a hard copy with your notes and refer to the online copy as needed. Supplementary reading material will also be posted on Canvas.

All reading material for this course will be located in the **Files** section of Canvas including secondary texts, primary sources, and any other related material.

Please Note: Canvas is a new platform. Many of us are using it for the first time. Please be patient, the new layout is intuitive and ultimately will be more efficient than the old system (Blackboard) but there may be a glitch or two as I continue to acclimatize to the format.

*****Attendance Policy: Attendance at all lectures and discussions is mandatory; students with unexcused absences will have points deducted from the participation category; excused absences such as illness or a family emergency must be documented. Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off. **Anyone using an electronic device in class will be ejected immediately and penalized with an unexcused absence for that day.*******

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assigned Reading and Notes: History requires a great deal of reading. The best strategy for this is to allow at least a couple of hours a day for reading. Assignments are designed to assess your understanding and analysis of the material. Taking notes while reading is a very effective way to focus on what can sometimes be dense or complicated subjects. The more you understand the progression and cause of events by careful reading, the easier the other assignments will be.

Each week you will be responsible for turning in notes from that week's assigned chapter. Notes are due on Monday before 10 a.m. by upload onto the Canvas coursesite. A handout outlining strategies for notetaking is available in the **File** section of the site. Notes should be 3-5 pages long per chapter.

Secondary readings will come from: *David Abulafia, The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)* and *Ralph W. Mathisen, Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012)*. You are not required to purchase the Mathisen book. All of the chapters from that work will be posted to the **Files** section of Canvas.

Assignments: although we are scheduled to meet MWF, we will not meet face-to-face on Fridays. Instead I will post an assignment at 9 a.m. Friday to be completed and uploaded to Canvas by **1 p.m. that afternoon**. The assignment may be one of the following:

1. A primary source evaluation analyzing the values and aesthetics of a particular culture/cultures. Assignment length: two pages, double-spaced.
2. An online discussion analyzing secondary and primary materials. Length 500 words.
3. A film synopsis and analysis. Film will be posted on Canvas earlier in the week, film analysis worksheet posted on Friday at 9.
4. Chapter synopsis in essay form. Assignment length: two pages, double-spaced.

For information about turning in assignments on Canvas refer to:

<http://guides.instructure.com/m/4212/1/54353?data-resolve-url=true&data-manual-id=4212>

Exams: There will be two exams during the session, a mid-term and a final.

Receiving Grades: Grades for notes, assignments and exams can be viewed on Canvas as the semester progresses. This will also allow for you to track your overall percentage. Remember that some assignments are weighed less than others so the cumulative percentage may not reflect your progress with total accuracy until the end of the semester. See me during office hours for any questions about your progress in the class.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Attendance/Participation 25%

Notes/Assignments 25%

Midterm 25%

Final 25%

Schedule:

WEEK 1: Introduction: A Sea With Many Names.

WEEK 2: **NO CLASS MONDAY, MLK JR. DAY, 1st notes assignment due Wednesday before 10 a.m.**

WEEK 3: Isolation and Insulation; Copper and Bronze

WEEK 4: Merchants and Heroes

WEEK 5: Sea Peoples and Land Peoples

WEEK 6: The Purple Traders; The Heirs of Odysseus

WEEK 7: Review; **MIDTERM EXAM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND**

WEEK 8: **SPRING BREAK**

WEEK 9: The Triumph of the Tyrrhenians

WEEK 10: Toward the Garden of the Hesperides; Thalassocracies

WEEK 11: The Lighthouse of the Mediterranean

WEEK 12: "Carthage Must Be Destroyed"

WEEK 13: "Our Sea;" Old and New Faiths

WEEK 14: Dis-integration; review

WEEK 15: **FINAL EXAM, APRIL 25TH**

