

Spring 2005
Med.05

**Anthropology 356:
Peoples and Cultures of the Mediterranean**

Instructor: Dr. Magliocco

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Office Hours: MW 11:00 – 12:00; W 6:00 – 7:00 PM and by appointment

I. Objectives

This course examines the ethnography of the modern Mediterranean, an area in which many European and Latin Americans have cultural roots. While some anthropologists have treated the Mediterranean as a single culture area, others have emphasized its diversity, seeing it as a border in which many different cultures have historically come into contact, and, at times, conflict. Thus one of the course's central questions will concern the nature and extent of the unity of the Mediterranean as constructed by both anthropologists and Mediterraneans themselves. Through a series of ethnographies and articles, students will explore the realities and representations of the peoples whose homes border on the Mediterranean Sea, including the peoples of North Africa, Italy, Spain, Greece and Israel. Rather than attempting to present generalized descriptions of such topics as village life, gender roles or religion, the course will examine the ways different ethnographers have treated these topics in different contexts. We will focus on concepts such as honor and shame, hospitality, the cultural construction of gender, and violence and conflict in the comparative study of Mediterranean cultures. This course will also use food and film to explore representations of the Mediterranean in popular culture.

II. Format

This class will consist of a combination of lectures, films, class presentations and discussions. Lectures are designed to build on, not duplicate, readings. Students are expected to come to class prepared, i.e. having read and taken notes on the assigned readings. Study guides will be provided to help students concentrate on the most important ideas in the readings. Attendance and participation are an important component of the final grade. Attendance entails arriving on time, staying for the duration of the class, missing no more than 2 classes, and notifying the instructor in cases where prolonged absence will be necessary. Participation means actively contributing to each discussion with relevant questions and comments, being able to answer questions correctly when called on by the instructor, and making clear, accurate and well-organized class presentations.

Films are an important part of the class curriculum. Many of these will be rented, or are owned by the instructor, and cannot easily be made up except at the student's own expense. Try not to miss any films, but if you do, please see the instructor immediately to make alternative viewing arrangements. **Some films we will view in this class have adult content, and are rated "R" for violence, brief nudity and adult situations.**

III. Requirements

This class requires a substantial amount of reading and writing. If you are unable or unwilling to do the work, you should drop the course. The following books are required reading for the course:

- Lila Abu-Lughod, *Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society*
Carole M. Counihan, *Around the Tuscan Table: Food, Family and Gender in 20th Century Florence*
Dorothy Noyes, *Fire in the Plaça: Catalan Festival Politics After Franco*
Dan Rabinowitz, *Overlooking Nazareth: the Ethnography of Exclusion in Galilee*

Required articles for this class can be downloaded in full text (pdf format) from www.website.edu/.....

All books are available in the Matador Bookstore, and have been placed on reserve in the Oviatt Library. Articles are available only in the downloaded version.

IV. Evaluation

There will be a map quiz, a midterm and a final. In addition, students are responsible for two class presentations and one final project. More information on these will be available in separate handouts.

Final Grade Breakdown:

Stereotypes presentation.....	10 points
Food presentation.....	20 points
Map Quiz.....	10 points
Midterm.....	50 points
Final.....	50 points
Research project.....	100 points
Attendance & participation.....	10 points
	Total: 250 points

V. Week-by-Week Course Syllabus

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Topic and Readings:</u>
1/31-2/2	Introduction: the Cultural Construction of the Mediterranean Read: Herzfeld, "The Horns of the Mediterraneanist Dilemma"
2/7-2/9	Honor, Shame and Hospitality: Key Concepts in the Unity of the Mediterranean Read: Herzfeld, "Honour and Shame: Problems in Comparative Analysis of Complex Moral Systems," "As In Your Own House: Hospitality, Ethnography and the Stereotype of Mediterranean Society;" and Brandes, "Reflections on Honor and Shame in the Mediterranean."

2/14-2/16	Images of the Mediterranean in Popular Culture Film: <i>Mediterraneo</i>
2/21-2/23	Class Presentations: Popular Stereotypes of the Mediterranean
2/28-3/2	Tribal Pastoralists: Bedouin Society Read: Chapters 1-4 in Abu-Lughod
3/7-3/9	Bedouin Poetry, Autonomy and Vulnerability Read: Chapters 5-8 in Abu-Lughod
3/14	Review and catch-up
3/16	Midterm Exam!
3/21-3/27	Spring Break; No Classes!
3/28-3/30	Peasants and Townspeople: Life in a Mediterranean Village Films: <i>Jean de Florette</i> and <i>Manon of the Spring</i>
4/4-4/6	The Peasant Past: Gender Roles, Production and Reproduction Read: Chapters 1-5 in Counihan
4/11-4/13	Gender, Family, Food and Social Change Read: Chapters 6-10 in Counihan
4/18-4/20	Supernaturalism, Gender and the Body Read: Dundes, "Wet and Dry, the Evil Eye," Levy-Zumwalt, "Let It Go to the Garlic!" and Del Giudice, "The Folk Music Revival and the Culture of Tarantismo in the Salento" Film: <i>Pizzicata</i> ("Bitten")
4/25-4/27	Festivals, Celebrations and Public Performances Read: Parts I and II in Noyes
5/2-5/4	Articulations of Power and Resistance Read: Parts III and IV in Noyes 5/2 Research projects due!
5/9-5/11	Conflict in the Mediterranean: Israeli Arabs Read: Rabinowitz, Part 1
5/16-5/18	Getting Along in Galilee Read: Rabinowitz, Part 2
5/25	Final Exam (including Map ID Quiz) 3:00 – 5:00 PM