

Venice and its Empire, 800-1800

HISC65H3

Lectures: Mon, 10am-12pm, HW 214

Tutorials: 1) Wed, 1pm-2pm, HW 402; 2) Wed, 2pm-3pm, BV 359; 3) Wed, 3pm-4pm, HW 309

Instructor	Prof. E. Natalie Rothman	Phone	287-7159
Office Hours	Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ H324 and by special appointment	E-mail	rothman[at]utsc.utoronto.ca
		Website	Blackboard http://portal.utoronto.ca
Office Hours	Wednesday 12pm-1pm @ H403G		

Description:

This c-level course explores the history of Venice and its empire in the Mediterranean from its humble beginnings as a fishermen's colony in the ninth century CE to its occupation by Napoleon in 1797. We will not attempt a comprehensive, chronological political survey covering a millennium of this highly-diverse region. Instead, we will sample various approaches to the study of the past, by exploring each week how a specific theme, such as "cities," "families," or "ritual," has been approached by scholars coming from different geographical and disciplinary perspectives. Our primary focus will be Venice (which at various points in time colonized parts of modern northern Italy, the Balkan coastline, and some of the Greek islands) and, to a lesser extent, its major political rival and economic ally, the Ottoman Empire (modern Turkey, the Balkan hinterlands, and the Middle East). Throughout the course, we will keep asking what is at stake in comparing historical societies, cultures, regions and peoples.

Goals:

- To gain an overview of the history of Venice in the wider context of the Mediterranean from the high middle ages to modern times;
- To understand the relationship between medieval and early modern social, cultural, political, and economic developments, and their effects on modern societies;
- To explore different types of historical evidence, and their multiple possible interpretations; and
- To develop academic reading and writing skills.

Required readings:

Chambers, David and Brian S. Pullan (eds.). 2001. *Venice: A Documentary History, 1450-1630*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. [Henceforth: *VDH*]

Lane, Frederic C. 1973. *Venice, a Maritime Republic*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. [Henceforth: *VMR*]

Both books are available at the UTSC bookstore.

All other required readings are available online. Links from Blackboard will be provided at least a week in advance. **You must print out your own copies of all readings and have them with you for tutorial on the designated week.**

Course requirements:

Full attendance and active participation in both lectures and tutorials, careful reading of all assigned texts, and timely submission of all assignments.

Marking scheme:

Attendance & participation	15%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	35%

Total:	100%

Assignments: As a rule, and to keep things fair, there will be no extensions on deadlines. All assignments are clearly indicated on the syllabus. Assignments should be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Be prepared for computer outages and glitches—late submissions will not be accepted due to any technical problems. To protect your own privacy hard copies of assignments cannot be accepted.

Office hours & email etiquette: Given the large class size, you are strongly encourage to come to office hours to introduce yourselves, to discuss any aspect of the course, or your academic goals in general. This is the best way for the instructors to get to know you and for you to solve any problems or concerns related to this course. If you need to contact the instructors outside office hours, it's best to use email. **You are also expected to email the instructors in advance if you must miss class due to medical/family emergency.** Do understand that we cannot always respond promptly to your queries. Responsibility for making up materials covered in missed classes lies with you. **It is your responsibility to ask your classmates for notes from missed lectures and tutorials. Notes will not be provided by the instructors.**

Writing: The University offers a great range of services to help improve your writing skills. You are strongly encourage to visit the Writing Centre (AC 210) and/or the English Language Development website at <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/%7EtlswEB/ELD>.

For excellent advice on writing, including tips on reading, summarizing, citing sources, and **how not to plagiarize**, check out <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>. If ever in doubt about plagiarism, please consult the instructors or the excellent staff at the Writing Centre **before** submitting your assignments.

AccessAbility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach the instructors and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in **S302**) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Required readings
1	M 10 Sept. W 12 Sept. Venice: City, Republic, Empire	<i>VMR</i> , pp. 1-85 As you read , consider how Lane describes Venice in these introductory chapters. What makes it in his eyes "a maritime republic"? What aspects of Venetian history might be missing from his account?
2	M 17 Sept. W 19 Sept. <i>Venice – The Stuff of Myth; or: The Rise and fall of... What exactly?</i> From a medieval fishermen's colony to an early modern imperial centre; basic chronology of Venetian history; periodization and its problems.	<i>VMR</i> , pp. 87-117. Sanudo, Marin. "Praise of the City of Venice, 1493." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 4-21. Geary, Patrick J. 1990 [1978]. "Translatio Sancti Marci ." In <i>Furta Sacra: Thefts of Relics in the Central Middle Ages</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 88-94.
3	M 24 Sept. W 26 Sept. <i>Space and time in the Venetian Empire</i> How did Venetians experience time and space in the city, the lagoon, and beyond? How have historians attempted to capture these experiences?	<i>VMR</i> , pp. 275-282. Cosgrove, Denis E. 1992. "Mapping New Worlds: Culture and Cartography in Sixteenth-Century Venice." <i>Imago Mundi</i> 44: 1-25. Romano, Dennis. 1989. "Gender and the Urban Geography of Renaissance Venice." <i>Journal of Social History</i> 23 (2): 339-53. Georgopoulou, Maria. 1996. "Mapping Religious and Ethnic Identities in the Venetian Colonial Empire." <i>Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</i> 26 (3): 467-96. As you read , compare the different understandings of Venetian space and time that emerge from the readings. What are the different authors' units of analysis? What period(s) does each focus on? What kinds of evidence does each use?
4	M 1 Oct. W 3 Oct. <i>Communities I: The City and its Neighborhoods</i> How did Venetians construct their city? How did different groups use the space of the city differently?	"A Pilgrim's Impressions, 1480." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 21-23. Davis, Robert C. 1994. "Why Bridges?" In <i>The War of the Fists: Popular Culture and Public Violence in Late Renaissance Venice</i> . New York: Oxford UP, pp. 13-46. Wheeler, Joseph. 2000. "Neighborhoods and Local Loyalties in Renaissance Venice." In <i>Mediterranean Urban Culture 1400-1700</i> . Ed. Alexander Cowan. University of Exeter Press, pp. 31-42. As you read , think about how Davis and Wheeler divide up the city of Venice. What are their units of analysis? What is their evidence?
	M 8 Oct. Thanksgiving - no class W 10 Oct. Midterm? (to be confirmed)	
5	M 15 Oct. W 17 Oct. <i>Households & Families I: Gender and Kinship</i> Medieval and early modern kinship; the gendered life cycle; dowries; concubinage.	"The Life Cycle and Family Arrangements." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 243-254. Barbaro, Francesco. 2002. "On Wifely Duties." In <i>The Italian Renaissance: The Essential sources</i> . Ed. Kenneth Gouwens. New York: Blackwell, pp. 150-170. http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/hgarrett/documents/barbaro.html Ferraro, Joanne M. 2001. "Concubines and Courtesans in the Courts." In <i>Marriage Wars in Late Renaissance Venice</i> . New York: Oxford UP, pp. 106-117.

M 22 Oct. W 24 Oct.	Households & Families II: Estates, servitude, and slavery	"Servants and Slaves." In <i>Women in Italy, 1350-1650</i> . Eds. Mary Rogers and Paola Tinagli. Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 264-268.
6	How (not) to think about estates in early modern societies.	Pullan, Brian S. 1999. "Three Orders of Inhabitants': Social Hierarchies in the Republic of Venice." In <i>Orders and Hierarchies in Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe</i> . Ed. Jeffrey H. Denton. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 147-168. Romano, Dennis. 1991. "The Regulation of Domestic Service in Renaissance Venice." <i>Sixteenth Century Journal</i> 22(4): 661-677.
M 29 Oct. W 31 Oct.	Communities II: Religious Institutions and Confraternities	"The Rule of a Lay Fraternity, 1535" and "An English Protestant Looks at Venetian Religious Life, 1608." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 195-196 & 210-213.
7	The Reformations; confessionalization and social discipline; confraternities and charitable institutions.	Chojnacka, Monica. 2001. "City of Women: Institutions and Communities." In <i>Working Women of Early Modern Venice</i> . Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, pp. 121-137.
M 5 Nov. W 7 Nov.	Empires Old and New	<i>VMR</i> , pp. 31-43.
8	What do historians mean by the terms "empire" and "imperialism"? How did the Venetian empire compare with other medieval, early modern and modern empires? What are the different approaches taken by historians in studying the Venetian empire?	"The Dominions of the Venetian Republic: A Report by the Spanish Ambassador, c. 1618." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 31-35. Arbel, Benjamin. 2002. "The Treasure of Ayios Symeon: a Micro-Historical Analysis of Colonial Relations in Venetian-Ruled Cyprus." <i>Kampos. Cambridge Papers in Modern Greek</i> 10: 1-19. Wolff, Larry. 1997. "Venice and the Slavs of Dalmatia: The Drama of the Adriatic Empire in the Venetian Enlightenment," <i>Slavic Review</i> 56 (3): 428-55. As you read , consider some of the similarities and differences between the images of the Venetian empire as they emerge from the different readings. You should pay attention not only to the authors' conclusions, but also to their methods: What kinds of questions do they ask about their object of study, and what kinds of evidence do they use to support their arguments? How does the period each author focuses on affect his arguments?
M 12 Nov. W 14 Nov.	The Empire Within: The Serenissima and its Others	Burke, Ersie. 2000. "'Your Humble and Devoted Servants': Greco-Venetian View of the Serenissima." In <i>Street Noises, Civic Spaces and Urban Identities in Italian Renaissance Cities</i> . Ed. F. W. Kent. pp. 10-16.
9	How did Venice manage ethnic difference? What possibilities and constraints were faced by different communities in the city?	"The Church of San Giorgio dei Greci, 1511." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 334-336. "The Charter of the Jewish Merchants, 1589." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 346-347. "House Rules for the New Fondaco dei Turchi, 1621." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 350-352.
M 19 Nov. W 21 Nov.	Ritual, Civic Ritual, Imperial Ritual	Assignment 2 , due on Blackboard Saturday, 24 November at 11pm: In 5 double-spaced pages, compare and contrast two approaches to any aspect of Venetian history. You should base your arguments on at least 5 of the course readings, including at least two primary texts.
10	What is ritual? What are civic and imperial rituals? What insights into the history of Venice and the Mediterranean do we gain by focusing on ritual?	"The Corpus Christi Procession, 1533" and "Temporary Architecture for the Reception of Henri III, King of France, at the Lido, 1574." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 63-65. Muir, Edward. 1981. "A Republic of Processions." In <i>Civic Ritual in Renaissance Venice</i> . Princeton: Princeton UP, pp. 185-211. Horowitz, Elliott. 2001. "Processions, Piety, and Jewish Confraternities." In <i>The Jews of Early Modern Venice</i> . Eds. Robert C. Davis and Benjamin

		Ravid. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, pp. 231-247.
	M 26 Nov.	<i>Staging Venetian</i>
	W 28 Nov.	<i>Grandeur</i>
11	Venetian music, drama, and festival	"Entertainment." In <i>VDH</i> , pp. 376-384. Casanova, Giacomo. 1966 [1826-38]. <i>History of My Life</i> . Translated by Willard R. Trask. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World. [excerpts] Carroll, Linda L. 1985. "Carnival Rites as Vehicles of Protest in Renaissance Venice." <i>Sixteenth Century Journal</i> 16 (4): 487-502.
	Tutorial: Review for final exam	
12	M 3 Dec.	Venetian Carnival theme party

Midterm: TBA (one hour, 4 identifications out of 7)

Final exam: TBA (two hours, 4 identifications out of 7 and 1 essay question out of 2)