**HIS862H3**

The Early Modern Mediterranean, 1500-1800

Lectures: M 10-12, SW 143

Tutorials: M 2-3, 3-4, 4-5 AC 332

Instructor Prof. E. Natalie Rothman  
Office H324  
Office Hours Mon 1pm-2:30pm and by special appointment

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Course Website Blackboard: http://portal.utoronto.ca

**Description:** This b-level course explores the interplay of culture, religion, politics and commerce in the Mediterranean region from 1500 to 1800. Through a range of secondary and primary sources, including travel narratives, autobiographical texts, and visual materials, we will trace how men and women on the Mediterranean’s European, Asian, and African shores experienced their changing world. We will not attempt a comprehensive, chronological political survey covering three centuries of this highly-diverse region. Instead, we will sample various approaches to the study of the past, by examining each week how a specific theme, such as “cities,” “families,” or “ritual,” might be approached from different geographical and disciplinary perspectives. Our primary focus will be the Italian city states, Spain, and the Ottoman Empire (modern Turkey, the Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa). Throughout the course, we will keep asking what is at stake in comparing, contrasting, and noticing connections between different historical societies, cultures, regions and peoples.

**Goals:**

- To gain an overview of the history of the early modern Mediterranean, including its European, Asian, and African littorals from ca. 1500 to ca. 1800;
- To understand the relationship between medieval and early modern social, cultural, political, and economic developments, and their effects on the modern world;
- To explore different types of historical evidence, and their multiple possible interpretations;
- To critically assess the interplay between convergence, comparison, and counterpoint in the history and historiography of the Mediterranean;
- To develop academic reading and writing skills.

**Course requirements:** Full attendance and regular, active, and informed participation in both lectures and tutorials, careful reading of all assigned texts, and timely submission of all assignments. Your participation mark will be based on the regularity and quality of your contribution to class discussions.

**Required readings:** This course has two required textbooks, available at the UTSC bookstore:

  [abbreviated on the syllabus as EME]
  [abbreviated on the syllabus as OE]

Additional required and optional readings are available on Blackboard. Some of the readings require a password, which will be provided in lecture. You are responsible for completing the reading and for bringing your own copy to lecture and tutorial on the designated week.

**Office hours & email etiquette:** Given the large class size, you are strongly encourage to come to the instructors’ office hours to introduce yourselves and 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. Notes will not be provided by the instructors.

**Assignments, deadlines, and policies:** In addition to a midterm and a final you are expected to write an essay and a Wikipedia entry in the course of the semester. As a rule, and to keep things fair, there will be
no extensions on deadlines, which are clearly indicated below and on the syllabus, except for medical and personal emergencies. Both assignments should be submitted electronically via 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 your assignments cannot be accepted.

Your essay should include your name, date, and the title of your essay at the top of the first page. You need not include a title page. References and citations for all ideas that are not your own/common knowledge should be carefully provided, either parenthetically (MLA/APA) or in footnotes (Chicago), as well as in a bibliography at the end of your essay. Either citation style is fine, as long as you follow it systematically. For a primer on standard documentation formats, see: http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html.

**Essay, due on Blackboard by Friday, Feb. 15 at 10 AM:** In 5 double-spaced and carefully proofread and spell-checked pages, discuss the following question: Based on what you have learned in this course so far, do you think that the history of the early modern Mediterranean is better studied by comparing and contrasting different regions and places, or by noticing their similarities? In your essay, focus on specific themes (e.g. kinship, states, cities, religion, ritual, etc.) and analyze specific examples taken from course lectures and the readings (at least 2 secondary and 1 primary document). You may choose a different topic and/or set of readings for your essay by prior consultation with the instructors by Monday, Feb. 4.

If you wish to receive written comments on your essay please state so at the top of the first page.

**Wikipedia entry due online by Thursday, April 3 at 10 AM (draft due on Blackboard and in class by Monday, March 24 at 10AM):** Create/Revise a Wikipedia entry from a list to be provided in class, or another entry pertinent to this course by prior consultation with the instructors. You may work in pairs. Grading will be based on the significance of the information you provide, the quality of your references (with strong preference for scholarly books and peer-reviewed articles), and the clarity of your writing. Detailed instructions will be provided in class on Monday, March 3.

**Writing:** The University offers a great range of services to help improve your writing skills. For excellent advice on writing, including tips on reading, summarizing, citing sources, and how not to plagiarize, see http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advice.html. If ever in doubt about appropriate use of sources, citing, footnoting, etc., please consult me or the excellent staff at the Writing Centre before submitting your assignment.

You are strongly encouraged to take your drafts to the Writing Centre (AC 210) well in advance of the deadline. Also check out the English Language Development website at http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/%7Etlsweb/ELD.

**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 me 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.

**Marking scheme:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wikipedia entry</td>
<td>20% (draft = 5%; final version = 15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 100%
# Course Schedule

All required readings as well as items for further reading marked with an asterisk are available on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture &amp; Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
</table>
**February 6**  
*Rituals of rule*

First essay due on Blackboard by Friday, Feb. 15 at 10:00 AM


**Primary document:**


**Optional reading:**


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**February 7**  
*Charity and Poor Relief*

Feb. 25  
*Reading week - No class*


**Primary document:**

“A women’s confraternity, Italy 1547.”

“Guardian’s defense of an orphan’s interests, Ottoman Empire 1541.”

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**February 8**  
*Minorities, Margins, and Exclusions*

Feb. 25  
*Midterm*

1 hour: 4 identifications out of 6

“Witchcraft” and “Judaism.” In *EME*, pp. 386-396.


**Primary documents:**


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**March 3**  
*The Worlds of Work & the Worlds of Trade*

Feb. 25  
*Midterm*


**Optional reading:**


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**March 10**  
*Imperial Cartographers, Geographers, and Diplomats*

Feb. 25  
*Midterm*

“Europe in the World, 1450-1600.” In *EME*, pp. 216-249.


Primary document:

Draft of Wikipedia entry due on Blackboard and in class by Monday, March 24 at 10AM

Primary document:

Optional reading:

Wikipedia entry due online by Thursday, April 3 at 10 AM

Date TBA  Final exam  2 hours: 4 identifications out of 8 (40%), 1 essay question out of 3 (60%)