Description: This seminar addresses the emergence and recent transformations of the Mediterranean as an historical object. It will offer an overview of the historiography of the Mediterranean from Braudel to his most recent critics, and situate this historiography within the broader field of contemporary scholarship and politics. In particular, it will explore the methodological and epistemological implications of post-colonial critiques of Orientalism and Occidentalism on the one hand, and of the ongoing conversations between historians and anthropologists of the Mediterranean on the other.

Required readings: The following books are available for purchase at the Toronto Women’s Bookstore, 73 Harbord St., (416) 922-8744:

- Cialente, The Levantines.
- Fernández-Armesto, Before Columbus.
- Ghosh, In an Antique Land.
- Goitein, A Mediterranean Society.
- Husain & Fleming, eds. A Faithful Sea.
- Said, Orientalism.

Additional required and optional readings are available online. To access them, follow the links from the relevant week on the “Course Documents” section on the website. Please bring your own copy of all readings to class on the designated week.

Requirements:

Weekly response papers: Please post your 1-page response papers to the discussion board on Blackboard by Tuesday at 10am (i.e. 24 hours before class), to allow everyone to read each other’s commentaries. Your response should not be a summary of the readings but rather a synthetic reflection, a set of comments, or questions that will serve as the basis for class discussion.

Journal assignment: To get a grasp of the range of approaches disciplinary and regional approach to the study of the Mediterranean past, you are asked to identify one of the journals listed in group 3 and/or another relevant serial publication, browse through recent issues of the journal and prepare a brief statement about your findings (1-2 pages), to be presented in class on the third week. Questions to be considered may include: How does the journal’s programmatic statement define the Mediterranean? What are its disciplinary, methodological, regional and chronological emphases? What is the relationship between this explicit definition and the implicit definition that emerges from the content of articles? Is there a noticeable shift (methodological, spatio-temporal, etc.) in the journal’s emphases over time? Due: Jan. 30.

Book review: A review (up to 1000 words) of one of the books listed in groups 1 or 2 at the end of the syllabus, or another book by prior consultation. Due: Feb. 10.

Sample syllabus: Design a syllabus for an undergraduate course in Mediterranean history. Your course may be at any level and cover any aspect/period of Mediterranean history. It can range from a large, introductory survey course to an upper-level lecture course on the history of a specific region/locale in its broader context, to a seminar on the comparative histories of a specific topic (e.g. captivity, piracy, urban planning, land tenure practices, etc.). Your syllabus should include an opening statement about the pedagogical and scholarly rationale for the course, a list of weekly topics, brief (up to one paragraph) explanations of the materials to be covered each week, and a list of tentative reading and writing assignments. Due: March 2.
Outline of final essay: Except for unusual cases, final essays for this seminar should be historiographical, rather than primary-research based. In lieu of a full-fledged research prospectus, the outlines should therefore provide a brief thesis statement, a preliminary bibliography of pertinent works, and an outline of the essay’s expected structure. **Due: March 30.**

**Final essay:** A 15-20 page historiographical essay based on course readings and additional research, as appropriate. **Due: April 11.**

**In-class presentations:** Based on a schedule to be determined at the beginning of the semester, you will be in charge of presenting one of the weekly set of readings. Your presentation should consist of a 10-15 minute introduction that will situate the authors historiographically and institutionally, summarize their arguments, and clarify key terms and concepts. You may also prepare a handout with some key questions and concept for discussion.
# Course Schedule

Items marked with an asterisk are available online.

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<th>Date</th>
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Aymard, Maurice. “Braudel, Fernand.” In the *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, pp. 1-5. [a brief biographical sketch]  
**For further reading:**  
**For further reading:**  
| 3 Jan. 23 | Mediterraneanisms     | **Journal presentations in class**  
<p>| 4 Jan. 30 | Anti-Mediterraneanisms| |</p>
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**For further reading:**  
**For further reading:**  
**For further reading:**  
**For further reading:**  
**Final paper due by April 11** |
**Books for review**

**1. Monographs and single-author volumes**


**2. Edited volumes**


3. Mediterraneanist journals
  [http://www.informaworld.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/smpp/title~content=t713404720](http://www.informaworld.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/smpp/title~content=t713404720)
- Cahiers de la Méditerranée (published by the Centre de la Méditerranée Moderne et Contemporaine, University of Nice, France): [http://revel.unice.fr/cmedi/](http://revel.unice.fr/cmedi/)
- Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East (Duke UP): [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/comparative_studies_of_south_asia_africa_and_the_middle_east](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/comparative_studies_of_south_asia_africa_and_the_middle_east)
- Mediterranean Historical Review (Tel Aviv University/Routledge, London): [http://www.tau.ac.il/humanities/cmc/mhr/mhr.html](http://www.tau.ac.il/humanities/cmc/mhr/mhr.html)
- Revue de l'OCCident Musulman et de la Méditerranée (published biannually by the Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l’homme, Aix-en-Provence)

4. Mediterraneanist Websites
- Centre de la Méditerranée Moderne et Contemporaine: [http://www.unice.fr/cmmcm/](http://www.unice.fr/cmmcm/)
- The Interactive Ancient Mediterranean Project: [http://iam.classics.unc.edu/](http://iam.classics.unc.edu/)
- Fondazione Mediterraneo [http://www.euromedi.org/?lang=ing](http://www.euromedi.org/?lang=ing)
- Society for the Medieval Mediterranean: [http://www.leeds.ac.uk/smm/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/smm/)

5. Film and Fiction
- Algiers (1938) — the inspiration for Casablanca. Watch the opening scene for a colonial take on the “Muslim City” trope. Streaming available at: [http://joox.net/cat/2/id/1724408](http://joox.net/cat/2/id/1724408)
- Alexandria, why? (1978), directed by Youssef Chahine (in Arabic, English subtitles)
- Adieu Bonaparte (1985), directed by Youssef Chahine (French, Arabic subtitles)
- La Lozana andaluza (1976), directed by Vicente Escrivá (in Spanish)
- Captain Corelli’s Mandolin (2001), directed by John Madden
- The Lost Ring of the Dove (1995), directed by Nacer Khemir (in Arabic, French subtitles?)
- Francesco’s Mediterranean (2008), a 12-episode BBC documentary series. Watch the 3-minute trailer here: [http://cde.cerosmedia.com/Ebury-Publishing/1X473c22734f858012.cde/page/5](http://cde.cerosmedia.com/Ebury-Publishing/1X473c22734f858012.cde/page/5)