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SOC 327 – MEDITERRANEAN SOCIETIES (4 credits)

Course Description

“The Mediterranean speaks with many voices” wrote the French historian Fernand Braudel. This course examines some of the most important anthropological studies of peoples living on the Mediterranean Sea – a part of the world that has been seen stereotypically as both the origin of “Western Civilization” and as poor and backward – looking at the things which these peoples have in common and at those things in which they differ. The societies looked at comparatively – primarily through the examination of ethnographic (first-hand fieldwork-based) studies, with some supplemental articles about topics of cross-cultural concern – will include not only those of the northern “European” shore such as Greece, Turkey, Italy and Spain, but also those of the southern “African” shore such as Morocco, Algeria and Egypt. Institutions such as “the honor and shame complex” and “the law of hospitality” will be examined critically to see what justification, if any, there is in speaking of “the unity of the Mediterranean”. The course will also look at the history, art, architecture and society of ancient Greece and Rome and the most important archaeological sites of these civilizations.

Course Format

The course format will be a combination of lectures by the instructor and of discussions in class of the set readings in which student involvement will be actively encouraged. As this is a 4 credit course, there is a strong emphasis on students engaging in research on the themes in the course syllabus.

Course Objectives

The goal is to provide students with an overview of some important socio-cultural anthropological studies of present-day Mediterranean peoples as well as an overview of the art and society of ancient Greece and Rome.

Course Evaluation-Grade breakup

There will be two examinations, a midterm and a final. Both will consist of two questions with essay-length answers of approximately two pages each answer. The midterm will be a take-home examination with set questions. There will be a choice of questions on the final examination. Each examination will be worth 20% of the final grade.

As this is a 4 credit course, students will be asked to choose topics for TWO research projects on any of the themes in the class syllabus and will present the results of their research in TWO PAPERS (of from 5 to 7 double-spaced typed pages, not counting the cover page, endnote page and bibliography page) which will each be worth 20% of the final grade. The research papers MUST HAVE FULL CITATIONS AND REFERENCES (styles of doing this will be explained in class). The deadline for submission of the FIRST RESEARCH PAPER will be an agreed date a week or two after the MIDTERM EXAMINATION and the deadline for submission of the SECOND RESEARCH PAPER will be the date and time of the FINAL EXAMINATION. Team research is encouraged, as is the presentation of joint research papers. Time allowing, students will also be asked to make brief presentations of their research results to the rest of the class. Presentations of the first research paper

will take place on the scheduled submission date and presentations of the second research paper will take place during the last week of classes.

Midterm exam: 20%

First research paper: 20%

Final exam: 20%

Second research paper: 20%

Class participation: 20%

Homework and Participation

Personal participation in class will be very important and will be worth 20% of the final grade. Students will be expected to keep up with the assigned readings, so that they will be able to ask informed questions and to discuss issues intelligently in class.

Students will also be asked to prepare various short pieces of work (1 - 2 pages) on different topics set by the professor during the course of the term to be presented in class as part of their class participation. The information for these short pieces will generally easily be found on the Web.

Suffolk-Madrid Official Absence Policy

Students must be punctual for classes. If a student arrives late (5 minutes or more), the professor may refuse entry.

Attendance is mandatory. Any unavoidable absences must be suitably justified in writing (e.g. a doctor's note). After two unjustified absences your final grade will be lowered by one half point for each unjustified absence (i.e., from "B" to "B-").

All work missed due to absence must be made up.

Required Text

The photocopied articles listed later in this syllabus.

Course Outline

Week 1

Introduction to the course and syllabus.

Is there a "Unity of the Mediterranean"? – Geography, Climate and Food.

Week 2

Is there a "Unity of the Mediterranean"? – Moral Values – I

Readings:

J.G. Peristiany, "Introduction", in J.G. Peristiany, ed. *Honour and Shame: The Values of Mediterranean Society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966), pp. 9-18.

Julian Pitt-Rivers, "Honour and Social Status", in J.G. Peristiany, ed. *Honour and Shame: The Values of Mediterranean Society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966), pp. 19-77.

Week 3

Is there a "Unity of the Mediterranean"? – Moral Values – II

Readings:

Carol Delaney, "Seeds of Honor, Fields of Shame", in David D. Gilmore, ed. *Honor and Shame and the Unity of the Mediterranean* (Washington, D.C.: American Anthropological Association, 1987; Special Publications Number 22), pp. 35-48.

Michael A. Marcus, "'Horsemen are the Fence of the Land': Honor and History among the Ghiyata of Eastern Morocco", in David D. Gilmore, ed. *Honor and Shame and the Unity of the Mediterranean*

(Washington, D.C.: American Anthropological Association, 1987; Special Publications Number 22), pp. 49-60.

Victoria A. Goddard, "From the Mediterranean to Europe: Honour, Kinship and Gender", in Victoria A. Goddard, Josep R. Llobera and Cris Shore, eds. *The Anthropology of Europe* (Oxford: Berg, 1994), pp. 57-92.

Week 4

Society in Ancient Greece – I

Readings:

Oswyn Murray, "Life and Society in Classical Greece", in John Boardman, Jasper Griffin and Oswyn Murray, eds. *The Oxford History of the Classical World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp. 204-233.

John Boardman, "Greek Art and Architecture", in *The Oxford History of the Classical World*, pp. 275-310.

Week 5

Society in Ancient Greece – II

Readings:

"Some Dates" in *Swans Hellenic Cruises* (London: The Hellenic Travellers Club, 1964), pp. 10-12.

Donald Strong, "An Introduction to Greek Sculpture", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 13-15.

Canon G. Pentreath, "An Introduction to Greek Architecture", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 16-18.

Professor W. B. Stanford, "Greek Drama", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, p. 19.

John Boardman, "An Introduction to Greek Vases", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 20-21.

Professor W. B. Stanford, "Greek Mythology", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, p. 22.

Michael Maclagan, "Byzantine History", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, p. 23-24.

Canon Guy Pentreath, "Istanbul", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 124-125.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler, "Athens", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 29-31.

Canon Guy Pentreath, "Mykonos", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, p. 104.

Canon Guy Pentreath, "Rhodes", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 96-97.

Professor Eric G. Turner, "Lindos", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 98-99.

Michael Maclagan, "Patmos", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, p. 102-103.

Canon Guy Pentreath, "The Bosphorus", in *Swans Hellenic Cruises*, pp. 126-127.

Week 6

Society in Ancient Rome – I

Readings:

Roger Ling, "The Arts of Living", in *The Oxford History of the Classical World*, pp. 718-747.

John Matthews, "Roman Life and Society", in *The Oxford History of the Classical World*, pp. 748-770.

Week 7

Society in Ancient Rome – II

Reading:

R.J.A. Wilson, "Roman Art and Architecture", in *The Oxford History of the Classical World*, pp. 771-806.

Week 8

Friendship and Family

Readings:

Sally Cole, "Vila Cha" in *Women of the Praia: Work and Lives in a Portuguese Coastal Community* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991), pp. 3-64.

Evthymios Papataxiarchis, "Friends of the Heart: Male Commensal Solidarity, Gender and Kinship in Rural Greece" in Peter Loizos and Evthymios Papataxiarchis, eds., *Contested Identities: Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991), pp. 156-179.

Michael Herzfeld, "'As in your own House': Hospitality, Ethnography, and the Stereotype of Mediterranean Society" in David D. Gilmore, ed. *Honor and Shame and the Unity of the Mediterranean* (Washington, D.C.: American Anthropological Association, 1987; Special Publications Number 22), pp. 75-89.

Week 9

Gender and Embodiment – I

Readings:

Stanley Brandes, "Like wounded stags: male sexual ideology in an Andalusian town" in Sherry B. Ortner and Harriet Whitehead, eds. *Sexual Meanings: The Cultural Construction of Gender and Sexuality* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981), pp. 216-239.

Sally Cole, "Women Work at Sea and on Land" in *Women of the Praia*, pp. 65-124.

Pierre Bourdieu, "The Berber House" in Mary Douglas, ed., *Rules and Meanings* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1973), pp. 98-110.

Week 10

Gender and Embodiment – II

Readings:

Jerome R. Mintz, "Sexual Targets" and "Women and Carnival" in *Carnival Song and Society: Gossip, Sexuality and Creativity in Andalusia* (Oxford: Berg, 1997), pp. 135-169.

Jill Dubisch, "Introduction", in Jill Dubisch, ed., *Gender and Power in Rural Greece* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), pp. 3-41.

Juliet du Boulay, "Women – Images of Their Nature and Destiny in Rural Greece" in Jill Dubisch, ed., *Gender and Power in Rural Greece* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), pp. 139-168.

David D. Gilmore, "Honor, Honesty, Shame: Male Status in Contemporary Andalusia", in David D. Gilmore, ed. *Honor and Shame and the Unity of the Mediterranean*

(Washington, D.C.: American Anthropological Association, 1987; Special Publications Number 22), pp. 90-103.

Week 11

"The Picturesque Mediterranean"

Readings:

Sally Cole, *Women of the Praia*, pp. 108-124 (reprise).

Julian A. Pitt-Rivers, "Law and Morality (ii) Bandits and Gypsies" in *The People of the Sierra* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Second Edition 1971), pp. 178-201.

Week 12

Political Repression and Resistance

Readings:

Stanley H. Brandes, "Giants and Big-Heads: An Andalusian Metaphor" in Mary LeCron Foster and Stanley H. Brandes, eds., *Symbol as Sense* (New York: Academic Press, 1980), pp. 77-92.

Jerome R. Mintz, "Trebujena" in *Carnival Song and Society: Gossip, Sexuality and Creativity in Andalusia*, pp. 224-257.

Week 13

Symbolic Violence

Readings:

Anton Blok, "Expansion, 1860-1914" in *The Mafia of a Sicilian Village 1860-1960: A Study of Violent Peasant Entrepreneurs* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1988), pp. 103-116.

Michael Herzfeld, "Stealing to Befriend" in *The Poetics of Manhood: Contest and Identity in a Cretan Mountain Village* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985), pp. 163-205.

Week 14

Meanings of Modernity

Readings:

Mary Crain, "Pilgrims, 'yuppies', and media men", in Jeremy Boissevain, ed. *Revitalizing European Rituals* (London: Routledge, 1992), pp. 95-112.

Cornélia Zarkia, "Philoxenia", in Jeremy Boissevain, ed. *Coping with Tourists* (Providence: Berghahn Books, 1996), pp. 143-173.

Week 15

Final Examination

Field Trip. There will also be a one day class study tour (Date and time: TBA) to the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Segóbriga near Madrid. We will visit the amphitheatre where the gladiators fought, the theatre where the works of the great classical playwrights were performed, the public baths and gymnasium, etc. A trip report (2-3 pages) on what was seen and learned there will be submitted afterwards as part of class participation.