



**Hist 308/Pol 303: History of The Mediterranean
Summer Program 2025 - Rabat, Morocco
June 2 - July 11, 2025**

The class meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

I. Course Description

The « History of The Mediterranean » intensive 6 weeks course is designed to provide students with the historical background to make sense of today's issues, conflicts and challenges concerning the region. The course begins by addressing the circumstances and conditions under which the ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean have emerged and how they evolved. The course chronicles the political, economic and cultural components of the advent of the region's major religions, empires, and finally current nation-state system. It concludes by addressing the major contemporary issues confronting the Mediterranean with a particular emphasis on North-South relations.

II. Primary Textbooks

Abulafia, David. *The Great Sea : A Human History of The Mediterranean*. Oxford University Press; Reprint edition (September 1, 2013)

III. Course Objectives

- Students will deepen their understanding of challenges confronting the Mediterranean region by studying its Political, cultural, religious and economic history.
- Students will improve their analytical skills by examining current and past case studies determining which variables count most in History and political analysis.
- Students will develop oral presentation skills including the rhetorical skills.

IV. Instructional Methods and Activities

The course will be lecture but mostly discussion oriented. We will take advantage of the conferences organized by the IAU and related to the class themes. The students will write analytical reports on three of them. Each student will research and make a short presentation on one historical figure who marked the history of the Mediterranean.

V. Evaluation and Grading

Presentations and Participation (25%) During the course of the semester students will be responsible for one 15 min presentation on a major historical Mediterranean figure.

Conference Reports (25%) Students will write a short summary of and reflections on 3 conferences organized at IAU. Details given in class.

Midterm Exam (15%): In class exam.

Final exam (35%): Another in-class essay, based on material covered after the mid-term.

VI. Attendance

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you **attend class**. This is not a lecture class and its success depends very much on your coming to class **on time**, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Attendance and participation will be part of your final grade. The first two absences are excused, each absence over two will effectively lower your final grade by half a letter.

CALENDAR

Week 1 :

The first Mediterranean 22000 BC – 1000 BC.

Reading: Abulafia, David. *The Great Sea* : 3-59

Week 2 :

The Second Mediterranean 1000 BC- AD 600

Reading : Abulafia, David. *The Great Sea*: 63-237

Week 3 :

The Third Mediterranean 600-1350

Reading : Abulafia, David. *The Great Sea*: 241-369

Week 4 :

The Fourth Mediterranean 1350-1800

Reading: Abulafia, David. *The Great Sea*: 373- 541

Week 5 -6 :

The Fifth Mediterranean 1800-2024

Reading : Abulafia, David. *The Great Sea*: 545- 648