DESCRIPTION:
This course examines the history, nature, and complexity of human interactions across the Mediterranean, from the dawn of humanity in Africa until the fall of the Western Roman Empire. The course will also examine the threats to this heritage posed by contemporary issues such as climate change and the growth of tourism. The course is designed around eight separate modules or themes, focusing on key issues that define the historical trajectory, such as human evolution, the Neolithic revolution, the rise of urbanism in Mesopotamia and Egypt, and the classical world represented by ancient Greece and Rome.

The intention of the course is to explore these phenomena, not only as a historical process, but as a way to understand and assess today's Western culture, economics, and politics. Taking advantage of the situation of the Mediterranean region, the course aims to discuss also more intriguing issues in human history, such as what makes us human, to figure out the role of women in human history, to explore the origins of urbanism, to discuss the nature of democracy and citizenship, to establish the effects of commercial and colonialist encounters, to explore curiosities of ancient daily life, and to understand why cultural heritage plays an important role in the construction of contemporary society.

As part of this exploration, the course will analyze how this Mediterranean heritage is presented to the general public through cinema, exhibitions, and displays in archaeological museums. The course also includes course-related trips to museums and archaeological sites in Barcelona so as to provide a first-hand encounter with monuments and material culture.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
Lectures: Students gain an overview of course content and have the opportunity to become involved with the subject matter, and to clarify issues.
Course Reader: This comprises a selection of recommended readings to complement class lectures and is chosen to develop a general understanding of the subject matter. Additional readings may be added to the course to track any new or significant developments in the subject matter.
Class activities: Individual exercises and group activities carried out in the classroom aimed at applying the theoretical content of the sessions.
Course-related trips: These are classes on site in which the students are able to experience at first hand archaeological and historical materials.
Research/writing/presentation project guides: Reading and writing analytical skills will be provided in order to help students accomplish the course aims and objectives.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
Class participation (10%): The student should be able to:
- to actively take part in class discussion and proposed activities
- to generate his/her own thoughts on the subject discussed.

Midterm Exam (20%): Students will be tested on material presented in the first half of the course. The exam will involve a series of multiple choice and short answer questions relating to the archaeology and history of the Mediterranean region.

Class Assignments (30%): Students will be expected to undertake specific written tasks related to class themes. All assignments must be handed in on the due date. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE MARKED.
Group project presentation (20%): Working in groups, students should be able to research new (academic) information on an unknown subject:

- to write and summarize this new information in a logical and coherent order so the research can be understandable by a non-specialist.
- to be able to use archaeological and historical data (examples) to support this work
- to organize the research into a coherent presentation and communicate this to the class.

Final Exam (20%): students will be tested on material presented in the second half of the course. The exam will involve a series of multiple choice and short answer questions relating to the archaeology and history of the Mediterranean region. This exam will also include questions meant to prove that the student has understood the main issues, ideas and information of the prehistory and ancient history of the Mediterranean basin and its contemporary cultural, economic and political legacy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:

- to summarize the historical evolution of the Mediterranean region from the dawn of humanity until the fall of the Roman Empire.
- to identify the main social, economic, and political phenomena in prehistory and ancient history.
- to stimulate critical thinking about past phenomena and compare them to today’s Western culture.
- to develop research skills applied to a specific topic related to the Mediterranean prehistory.
- to interweave the three above points (theory, facts and opinion) in order to build a better image of the Mediterranean prehistory and ancient history in relation to today’s Europe society and culture.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

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<td>The origins of Rome and the growth of the Republic.</td>
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### RECOMMENDED READINGS:

All readings are available on the Moodle course web site.


### COMPLEMENTARY READINGS

All readings are available on the Moodle course web site.

• Orsini, G. (2015). Lampedusa: From a Fishing Island in the Middle of the Mediterranean to a Tourist Destination in the Middle of Europe’s External Border. Italian Studies, 70:4, 521-536
• Sherratt, E. S. (1990). ‘Reading the texts’: archaeology and the Homeric question. Antiquity, 64 (245), 807-824.