Course title: Ancient Mediterranean: Colonial Encounters and Imperialism

Language of instruction: English

Professor: Marina Picazo.

Professor’s contact and office hours: Monday 17-18 h.

Course Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credit: 3 US credits-5 ECTS credits

Course Prerequisites: there are no prerequisites for this course

Language Requirements: None

Course Description:
This course will examine the nature and complexity of interactions between the regions of the Mediterranean during the second and the first millennia BC. The cultural florescence of the Ancient Mediterranean civilizations had its origins in a series of colonial entanglements beginning first in the eastern Mediterranean. Minoan and Mycenaean communities began to establish links with Egypt and the Near East in the first centuries of the II millennium BC. From then, over a period spanning more than two thousand years, and ending with the Roman conquest, colonists, merchants, sailors and conquerors sought to benefit from the commercial and cultural opportunities provided by the riches of the eastern, central and western Mediterranean.

Learning Objectives:
To understand the effects of the culture contacts along with the changes and continuities that accompanied the colonial encounters implicated in the making of ancient Mediterranean.

To study the origins of the concept of political freedom related with the first democratic institutions.

To analyze an example of ancient imperialism: the Roman Empire.

Course Workload:
A short essay and two exams. All students are encouraged to take part in class discussions and ask questions as this is a valuable part of the learning experience.
Methods of Instruction: The course is structured in lectures and discussion of readings.

Method of Assessment
A term paper (between three and five pages): 30%
Midterm exam: 30%
Final exam: 30%
Class participation: 10%

Absence Policy
Excused absences will only be justified by an official medical report or probable family emergency. The absence policy is the following:
3 absences: Student loses one point out of ten.
4 absences: Student loses two points out of ten.
5 absences or more: Student receives an “Incomplete” for the course

Classroom Norms:
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one- hour session

Weekly Schedule
WEEK 1
Session 1 Course description. Syllabus, assessment and readings
Introduction to the course requirements and method of assessment.

Session 2. The palaces of Crete.

WEEK 2
Session 1. Mycenae and the Homeric poems

Documentary: In search of the Trojan War: BBC DVD

Session 2. The collapse of the Bronze Age and the Sea Peoples

WEEK 3
Session 1. What was a Dark Age. The Greek case.

Session 2. The emergence of the Greek polis

WEEK 4
Session 1. The ‘other polis’: ancient Sparta.

Documentary: B. Hugues: The ancient Spartans
Session 2. The establishment of Greek settlements in the Mediterranean.

A map of the Mediterranean colonies.

WEEK 5

Session 1. Indigenous Societies of the Western Mediterranean: The Iberian cultural mosaic.

Session 2. The Athenian Democracy.

WEEK 6.


Session 2. After Alexander: The Hellenistic World

WEEK 7

Session 1. The origin of Rome
Reading: “The legend of the foundation of Rome”

Session 2. The beginning of Roman Republic

WEEK 8

Session 1. Social organization of the Roman Republic

Session 2. Becoming a Mediterranean Power. The role of the Roman Army.

WEEK 9

Session 1. Consequences of the Conquest. The beginning of the Republican Crisis.
Documentary: Tiberius Gracchus

Session 2. Rome at the end of the Republic
Reading: Keith Bradley (2009), “Resisting Slavery in Ancient Rome”, BBC Ancient History

WEEK 10

Session 1. Romanization: the transformation of landscapes.
Session 2. Romanization: collaboration or resistance?

WEEK 11

Session 1. The first emperor: Octavius Augustus.

Session 2. General overview of the course.

**Required readings:**
Keith Bradley (2009), “Resisting Slavery in Ancient Rome”, BBC Ancient History

**Recommended bibliography:**