

## MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS AND CULTURE

*Number of sessions: 30*

*Length of each session: 1,5 h*

*Total length of the module: 45 hours*

### INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

This course begins with a historic perspective of the Mediterranean Basin in order to create a context to understand the current situation in this Sea. By studying the evolution of some of the most important elements of this area (Greeks, Romans, Judaism, Christendom, Islam or the Renaissances) students will be able to deal with certain important issues like: the Middle East and Israel, the situation of dependency of some countries and the related migration movements and the process of integration that began in Barcelona.

### REQUIREMENTS

All classes are taught in English, so one fundamental requirement is the control of the English Language.

### CONTENTS

Main Civilisations of the Mediterranean: Greeks, Romans...  
Main Religions of the Mediterranean: Judaism, Christendom and Islam  
Different Mediterranean Renaissances  
Families, Crony Capitalism and the Mafia in the Mediterranean  
The Mediterranean Today

### GRADING

#### **Mid Term Exam (30%)**

This Exam will consist of 60 multiple choice questions. Each question will offer four options of which only one will be correct.

#### **Presentations (50%)**

Students are supposed to choose one of the optional readings to give a presentation. The reading will be, more or less, 50 pages long.

Presentations will be given in groups of 4 or 5 students and they will have to coordinate their presentations since they are part of the same book or they are related by topic. Each student will have between 10 and 15 minutes to explain to classmates the following elements in the text:

- Introduction to the topic
- Basic ideas of the text
- Development of some ideas of the text
- Conclusions

At the end of all the presentations the group of students will lead a debate based on their own conclusions and questions after reading the different texts.

No paper is required but a PowerPoint is highly recommendable in order to stress the most important elements of the texts explained.

The evaluation of this part will be divided as follows:

- 20% personal presentation
- 20% debate and session
- 10% participation in debates and questions of other groups

### **Final Exam (20%)**

This exam will consist of two questions to answer only one.

Class notes and sources are allowed in this class being necessary to cite all the sources to write a short essay of one/two page front and back. This exam requires conclusions where the students will give their perspective on the topic treated using sources.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bruno C. Reis, Paper 70: Political Change in the Mediterranean – Impact on Euro-Mediterranean Relations

Mahjoob Zweiri, Ali Tekin, Andrew E. Johnson, Paper 74: Fragile States and the Democratization Process: A New Approach to Understanding Security in the Middle East

Alexandra Barahona de Brito, Paper 58: Political Liberalisation and Transition to Democracy: Lessons from the Mediterranean and Beyond: Morocco, Turkey, Spain and Portugal

The readings used in class can be found for free in the following link:

[http://www.euromesco.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=category&sectionid=11&id=61&Itemid=48&lang=en](http://www.euromesco.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=category&sectionid=11&id=61&Itemid=48&lang=en)