ANTH 618 – MEDIEVAL SEAFARING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHERN EUROPE (A.D. 330-1453)

Spring Semester 2001
Anthropology Building – Classroom 130

Course Description and Objectives

In this course, we will examine seafaring, maritime commerce, naval affairs, and shipbuilding in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe from the Late Roman Period until the end of the Middle Ages (for convenience, say the fall of Constantinople in 1453).

Instructor Information

Dr. CEMAL PULAK
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, h. 1.00-3.00 p.m., or by appointment.
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Grading Rules

The format of the course will begin with oral reports on relevant primary material (shipwrecks or historical documents), followed by informed discussions of the day’s theme. In addition, there will be general readings assigned to the whole class. In order for this to work, everyone must keep up with the readings, and everyone must participate in the discussion. The final grade is based 50% on oral reports and 50% on a term paper (see separate sheet).

Grading of this course is based on:

- 5% proposal and abstract for the semester paper
- 45% semester paper
- 40% on oral presentations (25% on the major presentations, 15% on the others)
- 10% on contributions to class discussions

Extra credit assignments will NOT be offered. Grading will be assigned as follows:

- 90% to 100% – A (Excellent)
- 80% to 89% – B (Good)
- 70% to 79% – C (Satisfactory)
- 60% to 69% – D (Passing)
- 50% to 59% – F (Failing, no grade points, hours included in GPR)
- No grade points – I (Incomplete, no grade points, hours not included in GPR)
General Readings


SECTION I: The Late Roman World, c. 285-527

Reading:

Week 2 (24 January): Ships and Shipbuilding

Reading:

Reports:
1. Late Antiquity and the East-West Split
2. The wreck at La Bourse de Marseilles

3. Pointe de la Luque B
Clerc, J.-P., and J. C. Negrel. “Premiers résultats de la campagne de fouilles 1971 sur l’épave B de la Pointe de la Luque.” *Cahiers d’Archéologie Subaquatique* 2 (1973) 61-71. (See also large complete hull plan between pp. 192 and 193 in same volume.)

4. Yassiada II

5. Dramont F

6. Port-Vendres I

7. Sebastos (Herod's harbor at Caesarea)

8. Portus

**Week 3 (31 January): Cargoes and Economies**

*Lecture:* To market or not to market
Reading:


Reports:

3. The Army’s needs
   Coello, T. *Unit Sizes in the Late Roman Field Army*. BAR International Series 645, 1996.

4. Urban demands; bulk cargoes: grain, building materials

5. Amphora cargoes: Wine, oil, fish sauce

Discussion leaders:

7. Canal and road systems
   8. Customs and harbor fees
   9. Regulatory legislation
   10. Luxury cargoes

11. Isis
12. The Skerki Bank wrecks
13. Ship size

**Week 4 (7 February): Naval Affairs**

**Lecture:** Police force to war fleet

**Reading:**
- Rodgers, W.L. *Greek and Roman Naval Warfare*.

**Reports:**

7. Roman biremes, liburnians
   - Rodgers, W. *Naval Warfare under Oars: 4th to 16th Centuries*. Annapolis 1939.

**Discussion leaders:**

15. Piracy
16. Naval campaigns in the wars of Constantine
17. The fleet of Anastasius
18. *Notitia Dignitatum*
SECTION II: Byzantines and Arabs, 527-1025

Reading:

****TERM PAPER TOPICS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS****

Week 5 (14 February): Ships and Shipbuilding

*Keynote:* The ancient-medieval transition and the competition for maritime dominance

Reading:

Reports:
9. Yassiada I
10. Bozburun
11. Serçe Limani

Discussion leaders:
17. The “Saracen” wrecks
18. Tantura A and B
19. Iconographic evidence
   Hourani, G. *Arab Seafaring*. Princeton, 1986 (revised ed.).
20. Lateen rigging


**Week 6 (21 February): Cargoes and Economies I**

*Lecture:* Collapse and recovery?

*Reading:*


*Reports:*

12. Military supply and demand
   Kaegi, Jr., W. *Army, Society and Religion in Byzantium.* London 1982

13. Civilian supply and demand

*Discussion leaders:*

21. Laws concerning maritime trade
22. Government intervention/involvement in maritime exchange
23. The role of the Church

**Week 7 (28 February): Cargoes and Economies II**

*Reading:*


*Reports:*

14. Yassiada
   Bass, G. F., and F.H. van Doorninck, Jr. *Yassi Ada I.* College Station,
15. Bozburun


16. Serçe Limani


Discussion leaders:
24. The “Saracen” wrecks
25. Who were the seafarers - personal possessions from wrecks

*****TERM PAPER ABSTRACTS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS*****

Week 8 (7 March): Naval Affairs I: Ships and administration

*Lecture:* Dromons and the re-emergence of "naval policy"

*Reading:*
Dolley, R. “The Warships of the Later Roman Empire.” *Journal of Roman*
Procopius. *History of the Wars III-IV* (the Vandal and Gothic wars).
Treadgold, W. *Byzantium and its Army 284-1081*.

**Reports:**

17. Dromons

18. The Byzantine “themal” system of defense
Dain, A., ed., *Naumachica* (Paris 1943); F. van Doorninck, trans.
Jenkins, R. *Byzantium, the Imperial Centuries AD 610-1071*. London, 1966.
Discussion leaders:

26. Prepared fire
   Rodgers, W. *Naval Warfare Under Oars: 4th to 16th Centuries*. Annapolis, 1939.

27. Arab opponents

**Week 9 (21 March): Naval Affairs II: Strategy and Tactics**

*Reports:*

19. Leo’s *Tactica*
   Book XIX of the *Tactica* of Leo VI (886-912)
20. Expeditions to Cyprus: the inventories of Constantine Porphyrogenitus

*Discussion leaders:*

29. Logistics

**SECTION III: The Italians Are Coming! 1025-1453**

**Week 10 (28 March): Ships and Shipbuilding**

*Keynote:* The rise of the Italian city-states

*Reading:*


*Reports:*

21. The Contarina vessels
   Relazione, *Sulla scoperta di due barche antiche nel territorio del commune di Contarina in provincia di Rovigo nel gennaio 1898*, Commissione

22. Culip VI

Discussion leaders:
30. The gallia sottil
31. The Trombetta MS
32. Fabrica di galere
33. Iconographic evidence

Week 11 (4 April): Cargoes and Economies

Lecture: The commercial explosion

Reading:
   Byrne, E.H. Genoese Shipping in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries.

Reports:
23. Ownership: ships and ventures in Medieval Venice and Genoa
   Byrne, E. H. Genoese Shipping in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries. Cambridge 1930.
24. Contracts and obligations
Discussion leaders:

34. Stowage
   Lane, F. *Venetian Ships and Shipbuilders of the Renaissance*. Baltimore, 1934.

35. Sea Law: rights of owners and sailors

37. Capital and loans

Week 12 (11 April): Naval Affairs I

Lecture: Crusaders and their horses

Reading:

Reports:
   25. Louis IX’s ships: size and configuration
   26. Crusader naval strategy and tactics

Discussion leaders:
   38. Financing the crusade: Louis's agents
   39. Transporting horses: the ergonomic and logistical requirements
   40. The Hospitallers

Week 13 (18 April): Naval Affairs II

Lecture: Galleys, guns, and the Ottomans

Reading:
   Guilmartin, J. *Gunpowder and Galleys*.

Reports:
   27. Catalan warships of the 13th and 14th centuries
      Laures, F. F. “The Warships of the King of Aragon and Their
Fighting Tactics During the 13th and 14th Centuries AD,” *IJNA* 16 (1987) 19-29.


28. The galea

Discussion leaders:

41. The Ottoman navy


42. Early gun founding in the Mediterranean


43. Labor organization in the Arsenal


44. The Kadırğa


Paris, E. *Souvenirs de marine*, vol.6 pl. 312.

45. The Lake Garda galley


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**Week 14 (25 April) Presentation of Student’s Papers**

******PAPERS DUE ON FRIDAY 5.00 P.M., MAY 4******
Attendance

Attendance is an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Students who are requesting an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. Please see http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm for current policy on university-excused absences.

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Academic Integrity Statement