

HIST 2602
THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD IN THE AGE OF DON
QUIXOTE, 1450-1700
SPRING 2024, MONDAY: 1:45-4:45
VAN PELT LIBRARY (KISLAK CENTER), SEMINAR ROOM 627

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Using as our guides the works of Miguel de Cervantes, Michel de Montaigne, William Shakespeare, Baldassare Castiglione, Antonio de Sosa, Elias al-Musili, and many others early modern authors, this seminar will analyze the social mutations, religious confrontations, political conflicts, cultural productions and circulation of books, ideas and goods that characterized the Mediterranean world during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Based on close readings of primary and secondary sources, this seminar will focus on the study of the main transformations—political, economic, religious, cultural, and literary—in the early modern Mediterranean world. Students will also be introduced to and learn to analyze original materials from the Library's Kislak Center, where the class will meet, including early modern editions of books we will discuss, maps, ephemera, and manuscript documents.

Requirements:

Students are expected to be active participants in this class; class attendance, participation and oral presentations will be required. Students will write a final paper, around 15-20 pages, due on May 10. Students majoring in History can opt to write a research paper (20 pages) using original primary sources, to fulfill the department research. Other kinds of research projects (for example, a study and edition of a primary source, or a digital project) are also accepted. Students should discuss with the instructors the topics of their papers before the end of March. Students will be asked to present their projects briefly in class.

Readings

Each week will feature a few primary sources, and a series of related secondary sources, which will present broader themes for the week's discussion. Readings will be made available on Canvas.

Many of the sources are not originally in English. We present them in translation but also encourage students to consult them in their original languages.

Don Quixote: Cervantes's masterpiece is a key text we will return to throughout the course. Although we do not require that students purchase a copy, we recommend these editions:

Spanish: *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, ed. Francesco Rico ([Madrid]: Alfaguara, [2007]) (and reprints)

English: The translation by Edith Grossman is the most recent, and considered very good. But other modern translations are available (e.g. Penguin) and may be used.

Shakespeare: We will read **two** Shakespeare plays, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello*. No specific edition is recommended, although the Folger Shakespeare Library and Arden Shakespeare editions are inexpensive and reliable. If you read a version online, we suggest the Folger Digital Texts editions.

Topics

Week 1 - Jan. 22 (Monday classes): Introduction to the class

In class: Introduction to the course and to early modern sources

Week 2 - Jan. 29. Space and Temporalities

The Braudelian times. Representations of space. The great divide: Christians and Ottomans

Secondary Sources:

Braudel - *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, Vol. 2, Part 2, section IV.1, "Empires", pp. 661-680, and section VI-1, "Mobility and stability of civilizations", pp. 757-775.

Filippo de Vivo - "Crossroads region: the Mediterranean."

O'Connell - *The Mediterranean World*, chap 9: Mediterranean Empires

Vilar - "The Age of Don Quixote", in *Essays in European Economic History 1500-1800*, pp. 100-113.

Primary Sources

Cervantes - *Don Quixote*, Part II, chaps 61-62: the Sea, the printing shop, the galleys

Cervantes - *Don Quijote*, Part I, chap. 29, The Battle of Lepanto

Veronese - "The Battle of Lepanto," Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice; and other images and literary texts

In class exhibit

Week 3 – Feb. 5. Exchanges and connections

Merchant networks. Commercial routes. Connected histories. The "lingua franca" in the Mediterranean

Secondary Sources

Trivellato – *The Familiarity of Strangers: The Sephardic Diaspora, Livorno and Cross-Cultural Trade in the Early Modern Period*, chap. 4.

Marcocci – "Trading with the Muslim World."

Subrahmanyam - "Sixteenth Century Millennialism from the Tagus to the Ganges."

Mallette - "Lingua franca."

Primary Sources

Shakespeare - *The Merchant of Venice*

In class exhibit

Week 4 – Feb. 12. Travelers, migrants and pilgrims

Secondary Sources

Davis - *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim between Worlds*, chaps 1-3, 6 and 8.

García-Arenal and Wieggers - *A Man of Three Worlds: Samuel Pallache, a Moroccan Jew in Europe*, chaps. 1 & 3.

Salvadore - "African Cosmopolitanism in the Early Modern Mediterranean: The Diasporic Life of Yohannes, the Ethiopian Pilgrim who became a Counter-Reformation Bishop".

Primary Sources

Cervantes – *Travels of Persiles and Sigismunda*, Book III, chaps. 1 & 10.

Sosa - *An Early Modern Dialogue with Islam. Antonio de Sosa's Topography of Algiers (1612)*, extracts.

Montaigne - *Travel Journal*, last part of the First Part and the beginnings of the Second Part, pp. 72-102, 157-164

Kitab Nasir al-Din ala 'l-qawm al-kafirin - *The supporter of religion against the infidels*, extracts.

In class exhibit

Week 5 – Feb 19. Pirates and slavery.

Raids, captures, ransoms. Cervantes: a captive and a writer

Secondary Sources

Braudel - *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, vol. 2, Part. 2, section VII. 2 – “Piracy: a substitute for declared war,” pp. 865-892.

Davis - “Counting European slaves on the Barbary Coast,” *Past and Present*, 172 (2001): 87-124.

Hershenson - *The Captive Sea: Slavery, Communication, and Commerce in Early Modern Spain and the Mediterranean*, chap. 1.

Loulalich - “In the regency of Algiers: The Human side of the Algerian Corso.”

Nabil Matar - “Popular Sources: Accounts of Muslim Captivity in Christendom.”

Primary Sources

Cervantes - *Don Quixote*, Part I, Chapters 39-41.

Cervantes - *The novel of the English Spanish-woman*, in his *Exemplary novels*.

Cervantes - *The “Bagnios of Algiers”*.

In class exhibit

Week 6 – Feb. 26. Mediterranean England

Politics, diplomacy, plays

Secondary sources

Brotton - *The Sultan and the Queen: the untold story of Elizabeth and Islam*, chaps. 5-11

Danson - “England, Islam, and the Mediterranean Drama: Othello and Others”.

Chartier - *Cardenio between Cervantes and Shakespeare*, Chaps 1 and 4.

Primary Sources

Shakespeare, *Othello*

In class exhibit

SPRING BREAK – MARCH 4

WEEK 7 – March 11 - The Ottoman Empire in the Mediterranean

Greene - “The Ottomans in the Mediterranean”

Casale - “The Islamic empires of the early modern world.”

Casale - *The Ottoman Age of Exploration*, “Introduction” and chapters 5 & 7.

Green - “Islam in the early modern world.”

In class exhibit

WEEK 8 – March 18 - The Mediterranean World and the Americas

Connections Atlantic-Mediterranean. Columbus' letters. Las Casas' *Brevísima Relación*.

Secondary Sources

Flores – “The Iberian Empires, 1400-1800”

Flynn – “Silver in a global context, 1400–1800.”

Gruzinski – *What Time Is There? America and Islam at the Dawn of Modern Times*, Chapters 1, 7, 8 and 9.

Primary Sources

Columbus - Letter (1493)

Las Casas – *Brevísima Relación de la Destrucción de las Indias*, (1542), *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies (1542)*, Penguin Classics, “Synopsis, Prologue, Preface, Hispaniola,” pp. 3-17.

Optional

Elias al-Musili - *An Arab's Journey to Colonial Spanish America*, selections
https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9977125736903681).

In class exhibit

WEEK 9 – March 25 - The Inquisition in the Mediterranean

Censorship, auto-da-fe, conversos

Secondary Sources

Rawlings – *The Spanish Inquisition*, chaps. 2-4, and 6

Wachtel – *The Faith of Remembrance: Marrano Labyrinth*, “Foreword” by

Kaplan - “Introduction: Marranism and Modernity”, Chapter 8, “Conclusion: Faith, Memory, Forgetting”

Schwartz - *All Can be Saved: Religious Tolerance and Salvation in the Iberian Atlantic World*, Introduction and Chap. 2

Primary Sources

The Lea Collection: auto-da-fe. Charles Lea - *A history of the Inquisition of Spain*, 1906-1908, achiv.org, Volume I, Chapter V, “Popular Hostility”; Volume II, “Limpieza”, Volume III, “Torture” and “Protestantism”, and Volume IV, “Mysticism”.

Particular cases Inquisition

In class exhibit

WEEK 10 – Apr. 1 - Moriscos and Renegades.

Secondary Sources

Garcia Arenal and Wieners – *The Expulsion of the Moriscos*, chapters by Feros: “Rethorics of the expulsion” – Tueller: “The Moriscos Who Stayed Behind or Returned Post-1609” – Muchnik: “Judeoconversos and Moriscos in the Diaspora”

Dursteler - *Renegade Women*. Chapter 2.

Primary Sources

Nuñez Muley - *A memorandum for the president of the Royal Audiencia and Chancery of Granada en defense of the Moriscos*

<https://proxy.library.upenn.edu:2457/lib/upenn-ebooks/detail.action?docID=485955>

Cervantes - *Don Quixote*: DQ, II, 54, pp. 809-816 and DQ, II, 63, pp. 875-883:
Ricote the Morisco

Optional

Massinger - *The Renegado*

In class exhibit

WEEK 11 – Apr. 8 – Heterodoxies and Witchcraft.

Protestants, witches, benandanti

Secondary Sources

Nuttall – “Erasmus and Spain: The Vision of Marcel Bataillon”, *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, Vol. 45, 1, 1994, pp. 105-113.

The Oxford Handbook of Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe and Colonial America, Chapters by **Herzig** – “Witchcraft Prosecutions in Italy” and **Monter** – “Witchcraft in Iberia”

Sariyannis – “Of Ottoman Ghosts, Vampires and Sorcerers: An Old Discussion Disinterred.”

Ginzburg - *The Night Battles: Witchcraft and the Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, (1966), Chapters 3 and 4.

Primary Sources

Ginzburg - *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980, “Dialogue between the Inquisitor and Menocchio”, pp. 54-56.

In class exhibit

WEEK 12 – Apr. 15 – Courts and Festivals

Secondary Sources

Burke - *The Fortunes of the Courtier*, chaps. 4 & 5

Elliott - “The court of the Spanish Habsburgs: a Peculiar Institution?”

Britland – “Women in the royal courts”

Howard – *A history of the Ottoman empire*, chap. 3

Kunt – “House and Households”

Peirce – “Ottoman Royal Women and the Exercise of Power”

Primary Sources

Castiglione - *Il Libro del Cortegiano*. (1528), *The Book of the Courtier*, Norton & Company, 2002, “Dedicatory Epistle”, pp. 3-8 and “The First Book”, Paragraphs 26-27 (“*sprezzatura*”), pp. 31-34.

Gracián - *Oráculo manual y Arte de prudencia* (1647), *The Pocket Oracle and Art of Prudence*, Penguin Classics, Aphorism XCVIII, “Cifrar la voluntad” / “Conceal your wishes”.

In class exhibit

WEEK 13 - April 22 – Pícaros, Rogues and Vagrants:

Secondary Sources

Geremek – *Poverty: A History*, Chap. 2, “The Disintegration of Medieval Society”, Chap. 3.2 “Venice” and 4.2 “Valladolid.”

Cruz – *Discourses of poverty*, chap. 2

Marz – *Poverty and Welfare in Habsburg Spain: The Example of Toledo*, Part One: “Castile and the Relief of the Poor”.

Primary Sources

Cervantes - *Novelas ejemplares*, (1613), *Exemplary Novels*, tr. Edith Grossman, Yale University Press, “The Novel of Rinconete and Cortadillo”, pp. 107-138.

Lazarillo de Tormes, (1554), Penguin Classics. Prologue and Chapter I + “A Note on Currency” and “Map”.

In class exhibit

WEEK 14 – April 29 – Conclusions & Presentation Final Papers