

Introduction to Maritime Civilizations A: From the Settlement of the Mediterranean Basin to the Dawn of Classical Antiquity

Dr. Nimrod Marom

Synopsis

This course will introduce the archaeology of the Mediterranean basin from the last Ice Age to the end of the Iron Age, focusing on key events, cultures, and themes in its early history. Special emphasis will be placed on the hunter-gatherer cultures of the Mediterranean basin during the Pleistocene; Neolithization; island colonization; Bronze Age Palatial cultures; and the Phoenician colonization of the West. The course will include mandatory reading, presentations in class, and an examination.

Among the topics we will discuss in class are:

1. Introduction: The Mediterranean as a focal point for writing history.
2. Hunter-gatherers: Mediterranean prehistoric cultures of the Pleistocene.
3. Sedentary communities, farmers, and the first trans-egalitarian societies.
4. Early states and Civilizations: Egypt, Greece and the Levant.
5. Empires and the Sea: new power structures and the Phoenicians.
6. Pastoralists, agriculturalists, fishers: different ways of being.
7. When things fall apart: Episodes of collapse, their meaning and explanation.
8. Immigration: Archaeology, genetics, and ancient peoples.
9. Human ecologies in the Mediterranean: Introductions, extinctions, and de-extinctions.
10. Symbolic worlds: Cult & sacrifice through space and time.

Grade: 60% home examination, 20% presentation in class, 20% reading assignments.

Office hours: By appointment, nmarom2@univ.haifa.ac.il.

If you have a disability that may affect your studies and for which you

may require accommodations, please contact the Accessibility and Learning Disabilities Department at the Dean of Students office e-mail: LDA@univ.haifa.ac.il Phone number: 04-98249265

Students that have accommodation letters and need academic adjustments are invited to approach me in the acceptance hours or by email as early in the semester as possible.