

2021-2022

– Mediterranean Environmental History

Semester A

Course number 120.2106

Time: Monday, 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Dr. David Friesem

Office Hours: Upon scheduling via email at dfriesem@univ.haifa.ac.il

Course Type: Lectures

Course Level: Open to all levels

Pre-Requisites: None

Course Overview: This course will provide a Mediterranean perspective on the deep roots and historical processes which constructed our relations with the environment. We will focus on how natural processes influenced human societies, the ways people exploited and managed natural resources and the emergence of new perceptions of the environment. The ultimate aim of the course is to portray how the natural, physical, built and perceptual environments are inseparable from the human experience.

Topics:

1. Introduction to environmental history and the concept of the 'Environment'
2. The Mediterranean Ecosystem
3. The deep roots of human-environment relations
 - a. The earliest humans in the Mediterranean
 - b. Neolithization and the process of domestication
 - c. Urbanism and large-scale societies
4. Key topics in Mediterranean environmental history (examining case studies from the Bronze and Iron Age, the Hellenistic and Roman periods, Medieval and Modern Era)
 - a. Deforestation and soil erosion
 - b. Climate change

- c. Natural disasters
 - d. Global trade
 - e. Diseases and plagues
 - f. Exploitation of natural resources
5. Implications to the 21st Century

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- 1. Know basic concepts in environmental history
- 2. Have basic knowledge to understand environmental data
- 3. Understand how environmental processes intersect with cultural ones
- 4. Be familiar with key events and processes in human-environment relations throughout the long history of the Mediterranean

Requirements and grading:

Attendance in all classes (20%)

Home exam (80%)

Recommended reading:

Hughes, J.D., 2005. *The Mediterranean: An Environmental History*. ABC-CLIO.

Thommen, L., 2012. *An Environmental History of Ancient Greece and Rome*. Cambridge University Press.

Hoffmann, R., 2014. *An Environmental History of Medieval Europe*. Cambridge University Press

Broodbank, C., 2013. *The Making of the Middle Sea*. Thames & Hudson.

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 by email as early in the semester as possible.