Sea voyage – Sailing expedition for uncovering the Mediterranean Sea secrets

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"Sailing expedition for uncovering the Mediterranean Sea secrets" course will discuss, in-situ (from a sailing boat), current topics relating to the Mediterranean, from natural sciences, through the humanities and social sciences, environmental, climate, to politics and current-day policies. We will discuss pollution sites, MPAs, ports, marine transportation, Environmental Challenges and gas and oil exploration.

The tour will take place during the summer (July-Sept) for three days and two nights.

The participating students will prepare verbal lectures about sites of interest along the route of the cruise and will need to provide 10 min lectures about each site of interest along the way following 5 min discussion and questions. At the evening of each day, an expert will come to give a talk to the students, and an open discussion will follow.

Sites of interest will include environmental, historical, scientific, and industrial importance.

Each day will include one snorkeling event (only for who is interested). Each day may include expert guests that will board the yacht and share their knowledge throughout one leg. The student will handle the yacht under the instruction of the skipper (helm and sails). Each day a plankton net will be towed and students will examine the zooplankton samples under a binocular.

A tentative list of topics and locations is as follows:

- Day 1: Acre to Michmoret: (the extent of the loop northward will depend on security limitations)
  - Optimally we will board in Naharia Marina.
    - קידוח גז ונפט התבטל מול נהריה
    - שמורת ראש הנקרה
    - תל אכזיב
    - כרמל אכזיב (אל איבן)
    - Themo 1
    - שמורת ים שב ברני
    - עכו - יטריות
    - מפעל מזהם כספית דרומית לעכו: תעשיות אלקטרוכימיות
    - שפך הקישון
    - שמורת ים כרמל
    - DeepLev
    - Themo 2
    - Habitat and geology of the region (Achziv canyon, Eollanite cliffs, Terrestrial ridges elongation, continental slope, deep sea). And the wildlife related to this habitat.
      - חוף אכזיב
      - אכזיב
      - Vermatid reefs + snorkeling + Gil Rilov Lecture?
      - (Heading southwards again)
      - שמורת נווה ים
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Day 2: Michmoret to Herzelia
- Shemesh of the builders
- The ancient harbor
- Eollanite cliffs
- Rocky reefs
- Sandy habitats
- Wildlife related to these habitats.
- Stream of Polg
- Nahal Polg
- Sderot Uli
- Tel Arshef - Acre
- Wildlife and sea turtles
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Day 3: Herzelia to Ashkelon (or Ashdod, depending on the security situation)
- The ancient harbor
- The sponge fishery
- The sponge fishery (artisanal)
- Anemones
- Crabs
- Fish
- Stream of Leshem
- Stream of Ashdod (broad stream)
- North port (Beit Shean?)
- Mechanisms of pollution
- The ancient port
- The Ashkelon night camp

* Whoever is not comfortable to sleep on the boat will have the opportunity to sleep in a tent in RATAG night camp (fully organized)
Assignments and grade composition:
• Reading assignments + Preparation of 6 oral lectures with notes (two 10 min lectures per day) (60%) *
• Participation in the discussions (30% of the grade)**.
• Being an excellent and helpful sailor (10% of the grade)