COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to this writing-intensive seminar in Medieval and Early Modern History!

The pre-modern Mediterranean was a space of imperial competition, cultural encounter, and material exchange. This course will examine processes of construction and reproduction of racial, ethnic, and religious identities in the pre-Modern Mediterranean. We will study the ways in which those forms of identity structured political, economic, and social life. On the one hand, we will study discourses of racialization and religious difference that were constructed and deployed in the process of imperial formation and political consolidation. On the other, we will focus on the experiences of ethno-religious minorities in Christian and Muslim-controlled lands to understand issues of tolerance and intolerance, conversion (forced and voluntary), assimilation, integration, and exclusion, religious persecution and expulsion, slavery and captivity, and others. We will study, for example, the ways in which identity markers such as religious practices and language were often concealed or exchanged in order to conform to ethnic and religious categories in an age of confessionalization. The
format of this course will be discussion based, and therefore it is essential that you complete the required reading by the date indicated on the syllabus.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1) Upon successful completion of this course, students will have gained a general knowledge of the geographies and histories of the Mediterranean region in the early modern period.

2) Students will have a critical understanding of categories such as race, ethnicity, identity, etc. and should be able to question and explore the ways in which these categories were constructed in the pre-modern world.

3) Students will develop skills in oral and written communication, including sustained argument, and independent thought.

4) Students will have ample practice in reading primary sources, and to employ primary evidence in textual and historical analysis and argumentation.

REQUIRED READINGS:

There will be a course packet available for purchase at Affordable Copies Center, 55 Halsey Street, Newark (Between New and Bleeker St.). You MUST bring your reading packet to every class.

GRADING:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Papers</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>4 Pop Quizzes</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

This is a writing intensive course, and therefore there will be four writing assignments (of 3-4 pages) throughout the semester. Please refer to the syllabus for the dates and assignment prompts. You MUST submit your writing assignments through Turn It In. Papers that are not submitted through turn it in will NOT be accepted, and you will not receive a grade for it. You will also submit a hard copy of your paper to the instructor on the assigned date. LATE PAPERS AND/OR EMAILED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. You will receive feedback for each paper, and will have the opportunity to re-write your paper. You will receive a grade for both the original paper and the re-write. Your grade for each paper will be the re-write grade. Your writing assignment MUST include the Rutgers Pledge:

On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).
POP QUIZZES:
During the first —OR THE LAST—10 minute of four classes, there will be a quiz, based on
the material required for that day of class. These quizzes are designed both to ensure that
you generally keep up with the readings, and to encourage you to pay attention and take
notes during class. Please note that class will begin promptly at 11:30 am each week and
we will generally meet until 12:50 pm. If you arrive late or leave early without being in
touch first for an excused absence, you may not take the quiz and you will receive a
0/F for that quiz.

EXAMS:
There will be two exams, a midterm and a final, which may include identifying terms, dates,
names, essay questions, and/or analysis of primary sources. The midterm exam will be on
March 1st, during our class time, and the final will be given on May 8th, 11:45-2:45, as
determined by the Office of the Registrar.

COURSE POLICIES:
• Attendance at all regularly scheduled meetings of this class is expected. Rutgers catalog
states that “the recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention,
curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed
by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement
weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” Four UNEXCUSED absences will lower
your final grade by one letter grade. More than four UNEXCUSED absences will
automatically result in your failure. It is your responsibility to come to class and see
that you are marked present for the classes you attend. In the event that you have a
medical, legal, or family-related problem that might lead to an extended absence, you need
to meet me in person and bring necessary documentation as evidence for your problem. Only
then, we can discuss whether your absence can be excused or not. An email message
explaining your problem will NOT be considered as an excuse of your absence.
Ultimately, it will be the instructor’s judgment to decide whether an absence can be excused
or not. If you miss a class due to a reason that you cannot document, please do not contact
me to explain your case. Instead, consider it as one of your unexcused absences. Please
remember that any student who misses eight or more sessions through any
combination of EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED absences will not earn credit in this class.
Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

• You are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and participate in
class discussions. We will be using the reading packet frequently in class; therefore, you
MUST bring it to each meeting. Any student who does not have the course packet may be
asked to leave the classroom and marked absent for the class.

• The use of laptops or other electronic devices in this class requires the consent of the
instructor. If you have a condition that necessitates the use of a laptop during class for the
purpose of taking notes or accessing readings, please bring it to my attention along with a
letter from The Office of Disability Services. Those students will be asked to sit in the front
row of chairs in the classroom. Otherwise, the use of portable electronic devices, such as cell phones during class in a manner not compliant with classroom conduct (phone conversation, texting, and others) will not be tolerated. Students may be warned for such behavior initially. If repeated, they may be asked to leave the classroom and marked absent for the day.

• Punctuality and courtesy at all times are expected.

• If you have questions or concerns about this class, come and talk to me in my office hours. Please do not send email inquiries related to your absence or class materials. It is your responsibility to find out about the subjects covered in your absence and study them.

• If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an examination, you must contact me before the exam and have my consent to your absence. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment. With the exception of extreme cases there will be no early or make-up exams! As with all other exams, you must contact me in advance should an extreme emergency arise.

Rutgers University-Newark Academic Policies

**Academic integrity:** As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University’s educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community.

- **Academic integrity policy:** [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/)

- **Disability Services:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must complete an intake meeting, and submit appropriate documentation. If your request for reasonable accommodations is approved, you will receive a Letter of Accommodations (LOA), which you should present privately to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive and are effective only upon submission of the LOA to the instructor. Please begin the process by completing and submitting the Registration Form, Applying for Services, which is available at the website below.

  - **Applying for Services:** [http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services](http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services)
  - **Documentation Guidelines:** [http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines](http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines)
  - **Office of Disability Services (ODS)**
  Suite 219, Paul Robeson Campus Center
  (973) 353-5375
  odsnewark@rutgers.edu
**Religious Holiday Policy:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work of exams according to an agreed-upon schedule.

**Learning Resources**
- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
  Room 140, Bradley Hall
  (973) 353-5608
  http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc

- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
  Room 126, Conklin Hall
  (973) 353-5847
  nwc@newark.rutgers.edu
  https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter

**January**

1. **CATEGORIES**

**Week 1**

**Introduction**

- T. 16: Introduction and Organization

- Th. 18: Modern Categories

**Week 2**

**Past and Present**


- Th. 25: Defining Race and Ethnicity in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods


2. **IMPERIAL IDENTITIES**

**Week 3**

**Mediterranean Empires and Imperial Rivalries: Ottomans and**
Habsburgs

T. 30


February

Th 1

**ESSAY 1 DUE**


Gianfrancesco Morosini, “Most Spaniards are either very rich or very poor,” Pursuit of Power, 70-80. [selections]

Morosini, “Turkey is a Republic of Slaves (1585),” in Pursuit of Power, 125-155. [selections]

Week 4

Varieties of Identity in Venice and its Colonies: Civic, Religious, Ethnic

T. 6


Th. 8


III. MARKERS OF BELONGING AND DIFFERENCE

Week Language

T. 13


**Th. 15**


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**Week 6**

**Religion**

**T. 20**


**Th. 22**

**ESSAY 2 DUE**


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**IV. FORMS OF EXCLUSION**

**Week 7**

**Statutes of Purity of Blood**

**T. 27**


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**March**

**Th. 1**

**MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 8**

**Expulsion**
T. 6


Jews and Conversos in Iberia and the Mediterranean

Th. 8


Week 9

NO CLASS

T. 13 SPRING BREAK

Th. 15 SPRING BREAK

Week 10

Forced Conversion

T. 20


Th. 22 **ESSAY 3 DUE**


Week 11

Captivity and Slavery

T. 27


Th. 29

"Letters of Radwan al-Janawy on Muslim Captives;"

"Letters from Tunis by Osman/Tomas d'Arcos, A Convert to Islam"


April

**Week 12**  
**Beyond the Mediterranean: Conquest**

T. 3


Th. 5


V.  
**“OTHERNESS” IN THE EARLY MODERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**Week 13**  
**“Moors” and “Turks”**

T. 10


Th. 12

*An Early Modern Dialogue with Islam*, 119-127; 181-183; 184-187; 232-243; 244-246.
Week 14  
Gypsies

T. 17

Th. 19
**ESSAY 4 DUE**

Week 15  
Africans in the Mediterranean

T. 24


Th. 26
“Copy of a letter written from Touat by Antoine Malfante and addressed to Giovanni Mariono at Genoa. 1447,” in *The Voyages of Cadamosto and Other Documents on Western Africa in the Second Half of the Fifteenth Century*, ed. G.R. Crone (Taylor and Francis, 2011).

John Barbot, “Prepossessed of the Opinion… That Europeans are Fond of their Flesh (1682),” in *Excerpts from Slave Narratives*, ed. Steven Mintz. Available online: http://www.vgskole.net/prosjekt/slavrute/1.htm

Tues. May 8  
**FINAL EXAM**