Romans, Arabs, and Vikings.
Seafaring in the Mediterranean during the Early Christian Era.
Anthropology 489

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:55 to 5:10 PM; Room ANTH105; Dr. Filipe Castro
Office 105 Anthropology Building, E-Mail: fvcastro@tamu.edu
Office hours: 1-3:30 Tuesday or by appointment

In this course we will examine seafaring, maritime commerce, naval affairs, and shipbuilding in the Mediterranean from the late Roman Period until the fall of Constantinople, in 1453. **Everyone must keep up with the readings.** Students are expected to participate in the class. The final grade is based 40% on a mid-term exam, 40% on a final exam, and 20% on two take home assignments. Exam questions – **each exam consists of four essay questions** – will be based on reading material and class notes.

**Grade scale:** A: 90-100; B: 80-89.99; C: 70-79.99; D: 60-69.99; F: 0-59.99.

**General Readings (on reserve in the library)**
**Schedule**

**Week 1: Introduction**

   The Mediterranean Sea.

2. Ships and Shipbuilding: Basic Concepts I.

**Week 2: Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period I – The East-West Spit**

3. Ships and Shipbuilding: Basic Concepts II.

4. History: The Mediterranean Sea. Late Antiquity and the East-West split: from Diocletian to Theodosius (284-395 AD).
   **First Assignment Due.**

**Week 3: Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period II – Shipwrecks**

5. Case-studies: Roman Ships I – Mortise and tenon joints. The shipwreck of the Madrague de Giens (c. 60 BC).
   **Readings:** Madrague de Giens Ship File.

6. Roman Ships II – The wreck of the Bourse de Marseilles (c. AD 200). Trade in the late Roman period.
   **Readings:** Bourse de Marseilles Ship File.
Week 4: Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period III – Warships


   **Readings:** Class notes.


8. History: Piracy. Roman Biremes. Liburnians: warships from the 1st to the 5th century AD.


Week 5: Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period IV – 5th and 6th Centuries


   **Readings:** Ostrogorsky 1969: 50-68 and 68-86.

10. History: Army’s needs, 2nd to 5th centuries. Roads, canals and harbors.


Week 6: Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period V – 5th and 6th Centuries


12. Case studies: The Skerki Bank Shipwrecks, 1st century BC to 4th century AD. Trade routes and ship sizes through time.


Second Assignment Due.

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Week 7: Byzantines and Arabs I – 7th and 8th Centuries

13. History: The Umayyad Caliphate (661-750 AD).
   

14. Exam 1 - March 9 – Midterm grades due!

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Week 8: Byzantines, Arabs, and the French – 8th and 9th Centuries


   
   Yassıada II, Tantura A, and Yassıada I Ship Files.

16. History: Charlemagne (AD 742-814). The ships of the Franks.

   Readings: Greenhill 1988: 35-52; Mackay and Ditchburn 1997: 10-20;
   

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Week 9 – SPRING BREAK

No classes.
**Week 10: Byzantines and Arabs III - Lateeners**


      Bozburun Ship File.


**Week 11: Invasions I – Vikings.**


      Readings: Agay A and B, Batéguier, Estéou, and Tantura B Ship Files.

**Week 12: Invasions II – Vikings (continued) and Normans.**

21. History: The Vikings arrive!


22: Clinker built ships.


      Nydam, Oseberg, Gokstad, and Skuldelev 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 Ship Files.

**Week 13: Invasions III – Crusaders**


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**Week 14: The Late Medieval Revolution, 1025-1453**


**Readings:** Mackay and Ditchburn 1997: 70-109.

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Serçe Limanı and Tantura F Ship Files. [http://classes.bnf.fr/villard/index.htm](http://classes.bnf.fr/villard/index.htm)

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**Week 15: Trading, Ships and Shipwrights**


28. History: Italy and the Renaissance, 1025-1453. The commercial explosion.


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**Week 16: Trading, Ships and Shipwrights**

29. History: The origin of the 3-masted ship. The Iberian Discoveries.


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30. History: Guns and war at sea. The Ottomans and the End of the Middle Ages.

Exams

Exam 1 – March 3rd.
Exam 2 – To be scheduled.

Take Home Assignments

Assignment 1 – Draw two maps of Europe and the Mediterranean Sea, the first with all the countries that surround it today, and the second with the Roman Empire around the end of the second century AD. Due January 27.

Assignment 2 – Draw two maps of Europe and the Mediterranean Sea, the first with the political divisions circa AD 700, and the second at the time of the First Crusade. Due February 3rd.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Student Services Building. The telephone number is 845-1637.

Aggie Honor Code

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/

On all course work, assignments, and examinations at Texas A&M University, the following Honor Pledge shall be preprinted and signed by the student:

“My honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.”