

## HIST 369 | The Aegean Islands 1912 to the Present Spring 2024

**Course Instructor(s):** Alexander Kitroeff

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**(Office) Hours Available:** After Class & by appointment

### Course Description

This course explores the history of Greece's Aegean islands and the ways their geographical location made them a crossroads where the world of Greece encountered that of the East and the West from Antiquity to the present. If the same thing can be said of the Greek mainland, the Aegean Islands epitomize the way Greek culture was in conversation with neighboring as well as far away cultures. Moreover, this intermingling of cultures continued in the modern era when the Aegean was surrounded and was part of a system of national states. That is why rather than examine the Aegean islands as part of Greece, we will treat them as "islands" that is to say a geographically exposed entity that is especially open to outside influences. These cultural interactions unfolded across a wide range of spheres that we will examine as they emerged over time - architecture, economics, film, music, photography, politics, religion. Our focus is a period from the early twentieth century to the present and our investigation of these successive cultural encounters will proceed chronologically. Our course is divided into 9 parts: the first is the pre-history of the era that concerns us and covers the Classical, Venetian and Ottoman Aegean; the second focuses on the transition of the Aegean from Ottoman rule to Greek nationhood; the third examines Italian rule and Italian architecture in the Dodecanese between the two world wars; the fourth deals with WWII and especially the Battle of Crete; the fifth section is concerned with the post-WWII era growth of tourism; the sixth explores the role of religion and traditional forms of worship; the seventh addresses the Greco-Turkish conflict over the Aegean from the 1970s to the present; the eighth is on the refugee flows from the Middle East in the 2010s and the ninth looks at daily life on the islands. By the same token, this course illustrates the ways historians study the past through privileging an investigation of causes and effects over a simple recitation of dates and facts; inquiring about the meaning of significance of events for a particular era or period; analyzing texts by placing them in their proper historical context; evaluating sources; and using a broad range of data including primary sources (evidence produced contemporaneously to the event we are studying), secondary sources (ex-post facto assessments either by lay-persons or academic historians), films, music and photographs.

**Course Resources and Activities:** Our encounter with the history of the islands of the Aegean will entail: reading and analyzing primary and academic texts and the viewing of documentary films and collections of photographs.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the course, students should have acquired an understanding of the historical trajectory of the Aegean islands of Greece and their experiences as a crossroads of cultures; an ability to use the historian's tools to reflect and analyze the past and a familiarity with the use of a range of sources including texts, films and photographs.

### Course Requirements

Regular, prompt class attendance and ability to discuss assigned readings

Mid-term Paper (1,000 words) OR Ppt presented in class & submitted electronically

1-page proposal of planned research paper, including topic & main argument

2-page outline of research paper including annotated content & bibliography

In-class presentation of term paper

Research Project – Ppt & 1,000 words, double-spaced

Research project specifications: Your project should be organized in a way that demonstrates its main argument followed by the premises on which it is made, with the help of primary and secondary sources, it should be footnoted and include a bibliography. We will have ample time to discuss the paper, the topics, the appropriate sources and the instructor's expectations in class during the semester.

## **Grading and Evaluation**

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

25% Regular, prompt class attendance and ability to discuss assigned readings

25% Mid-term Paper

20% In-class presentation of final assignment

30% Research Paper or Power Point Presentation

Grades are intended to give you a sense of the quality of a particular piece of work: roughly speaking, a B means that you have done a good job with the writing, the ideas, and the organization of the work; a C conveys that the work lacks some important qualities and has some problems, while an A means that the work is exemplary in some key ways: the writing is particularly clear, the ideas thoroughly treated, the organization of the presentation well considered and effective. Your attendance and in class writing and analysis – is vitally important to your success in this course. Tardiness for class and absences without a valid excuse (e.g. illness) will affect your grade. Policy on Original Work: Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. (Check Student handbook, pg 9). Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Director of Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

## Class & Readings Schedule

<b>1</b>	<b>The Aegean Islands: A Cultural Geography</b>
<b>Section #1 The Aegean in the Venetian, Genoese &amp; Ottoman eras</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Crusaders, Venetians &amp; Genoese in the Aegean</b> <a href="http://www2.egeonet.gr/Forms/flEmmaBodyExtended.aspx?lemmaID=10809">http://www2.egeonet.gr/Forms/flEmmaBodyExtended.aspx?lemmaID=10809</a> <i>Maria Manola, "Cultural Heritage of the Genoese on Chios"</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>The Aegean Under the Ottomans</b> <i>Dimitris Plantzos, The Story of Lemnos (excerpts)</i> <a href="https://hartis.org/blog/en/greek_seamanship/the-aegean-under-ottoman-rule">https://hartis.org/blog/en/greek_seamanship/the-aegean-under-ottoman-rule</a>
<b>Section #2 From an Empire's Province to Nationhood</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Crete and its Union with Greece</b> <a href="https://www.venizelos-foundation.gr/en/definitive-irrevocable-unification-crete-greece-interview-n-papadakis/">https://www.venizelos-foundation.gr/en/definitive-irrevocable-unification-crete-greece-interview-n-papadakis/</a> <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/25/opinion/nikos-konstandaras-crete-finds-self-in-union.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/25/opinion/nikos-konstandaras-crete-finds-self-in-union.html</a> <a href="https://www.icwa.org/crete-southern-border/">https://www.icwa.org/crete-southern-border/</a> <i>Tue &amp; Thu Feb. 13 &amp; 15 No Class - FS to Peloponnese</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>The Northern Aegean Islands Liberated</b> William Peter Kaldis, "Background for Conflict: Greece, Turkey and the Aegean Islands, 1912-1914" Hugh Mason, Mytilene Harbours, November 1912 and other occasions" Canadian Institute in Greece 2012 <i>Dimitris Plantzos, The Story of Lemnos (excerpts)</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>1922 Refugees Cross the Aegean</b> Giles Milton, <i>Paradise Lost Smyrna 1922 (excerpts)</i>
<b>Section #3 From Italian Rule in the Dodecanese to Union with Greece</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>The Dodecanese Islands Under Italian Rule</b> Valerie McGuire, "Everyday Fascism in the Aegean" in <i>Italy's Sea Empire and Nation in the Mediterranean, 1895-1945</i> <b>From Italian to Greek</b> Joseph S. Roucek, The Legal Aspects of Sovereignty Over the Dodecanese <i>The American Journal of International Law</i> , Oct., 1944, Vol. 38, No. 4 701-706
<b>8</b>	<b>From the Aegean to Tarpon Springs, Florida</b> H. Russel Bernard, "Greek Sponge Boats in Florida" <i>Anthropological Quarterly</i> , Apr., 1965, Vol. 38, No. 2 41-54 Tina Bucuvalas, "The Tarpon Springs Greektown Traditional Cultural District: The National Register Nomination and the Battle of the Sponge Docks" <i>Journal of American Folklore</i> , Vol. 132, No. 526, Fall 2019, 452-471
<b>Section #4 WWII</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>The Battle for Crete</b> Antony Beevor, <i>Crete 1941: The Battle and the Resistance (excerpts)</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Film: Zorba the Greek</b> <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/1964/12/18/archives/screen-zorba-the-greek-is-at-suttonanthony-quinn-stars-in.html">https://www.nytimes.com/1964/12/18/archives/screen-zorba-the-greek-is-at-suttonanthony-quinn-stars-in.html</a>
<b>11</b>	Midterm
<b>12</b>	<b>Cretan Wartime Resistance</b> Antony Beevor, <i>Crete 1941: The Battle and the Resistance (excerpts)</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>Wartime Famine in the Aegean</b> Violetta Hionidou, "If We Hadn't Left... We Would Have All Died" Escaping Famine on a Greek Island" <i>Journal of Refugee Studies Vol. 34, No. 1</i>
<b>Section #5 Tourism</b>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Film: The Boy on a Dolphin</b> <a href="https://letterboxd.com/man_out_of_time/film/boy-on-a-dolphin/">https://letterboxd.com/man_out_of_time/film/boy-on-a-dolphin/</a>
<b>15</b>	<b>Robert McCabe's Aegean Islands</b> <a href="https://www.mccabephotos.com/">https://www.mccabephotos.com/</a> Margaret A. Stott, "Property, Labor and Household Economy: The Transition to Tourism in Mykonos, Greece" <i>Journal of Modern Greek Studies</i> , Vol. 3, No. 2, October 1985, pp. 187-206 <i>Tue. &amp; Thu April 2 &amp; 4 No Class FS Thessaloniki</i>
<b>16</b>	<b>Leonard Cohen's Hydra</b>

	<a href="https://www.leonardcohenfiles.com/hydra2.html">https://www.leonardcohenfiles.com/hydra2.html</a> <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/30/bohemian-tragedy-leonard-cohen-and-the-curse-of-hydra">https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/30/bohemian-tragedy-leonard-cohen-and-the-curse-of-hydra</a>
<b>Section #6 Religion</b>	
<b>17</b>	<b>St. Rafail on Lesbos</b> Séverine Rey, "Between Dreams and Traces: Memory, Temporality and the Production of Sainthood on Lesbos"
<b>18</b>	<b>Our Lady of Tinos</b> Jill Dubisch, "Golden Oranges and Silver Ships: an Interpretative Approach to a Greek Holy Shrine" <i>Journal of Modern Greek Studies</i> Vol. 6, No. 1 May 1988 117-134
<b>Section #7 The Greco-Turkish Conflict Over the Aegean</b>	
<b>19</b>	<b>1970s to 1990s</b> Michael N. Schmitt, "Aegean Angst: The Greek-Turkish Dispute" <i>Naval War College Review</i> Vol. 49 No. 3 (Summer 1996) 42-72
<b>20</b>	<b>Current Geopolitics</b> <a href="https://warontherocks.com/2022/06/dogfight-over-the-aegean-turkish-greek-relations-in-light-of-ukraine/">https://warontherocks.com/2022/06/dogfight-over-the-aegean-turkish-greek-relations-in-light-of-ukraine/</a>
<b>Section #8 The Refugee Flow from the Middle East</b>	
<b>21</b>	<b>The Refugee Wave in 2015</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjn5B2GCvc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjn5B2GCvc</a> <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/28/opinion/4-1-miles.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/28/opinion/4-1-miles.html</a> Julie Melichar, A refugee crisis? The volunteer humanitarian response in Lesbos after the EU-Turkey deal: between humanitarianism and politics. (2017)
<b>22</b>	<b>The Refugee Camps</b> Tunaboylu & Liempt, "A Lack of Legal Protection and Limited Ways Out: How Asylum Seekers Cope with Liminality on Greek Islands: Lesbos and Chios" <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i> 2020
<b>Section #9 Daily Life in the Aegean</b>	
<b>23</b>	<b>Living in the Northern Aegean</b> Dimitris Plantzos, <i>The Story of Lemnos</i> (excerpts)
<b>24</b>	<b>Ikaria: Food &amp; Longevity</b> <a href="https://www.bluezones.com/explorations/ikaria-greece/">https://www.bluezones.com/explorations/ikaria-greece/</a>
	In-class presentations of final project

\*Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on due date, unless noted otherwise on syllabus

Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning and in keeping up to date with current research

Laptop use in class will vary depending on in-class activity on a particular day