HIEU 166GS: *Environmental History of the Mediterranean*
University of California, San Diego
Global Seminar, Summer 2027
Aix-en-Provence, France

CLASS SCHEDULE: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS: What defines a "Mediterranean climate"? Plentiful sunshine, hot, dry summers, and cool, wet winters? In fact, within the Mediterranean there are countless micro-climates. Some produce conditions of plenty, while others are precarious for human habitation. This colloquium examines the environmental history of the pre-modern Mediterranean, focusing on the intersection between climate and human societies, particularly how humans respond to climatic shifts in precariously arid zones. Special attention will be devoted to the link between climate change and revolutions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will develop a detailed understanding of the methodologies of environmental history and the history of the Mediterranean over the last two millennia with a special emphasis on the medieval, early modern, and modern eras. Students will explore the causes and the consequences of climate and landscape change in the Mediterranean region and how human societies have adapted, coped, or failed to respond to the challenges of environmental change. How did past societies cope? Why did some show resilience and adapt while others did not? Students will also become familiar with some of the tools in the historian's toolkit and undertake interdisciplinary research. These include: how to critically read climate science; how to undertake interdisciplinary research, including the hard sciences, the social sciences, and humanities; how to take professional-level notes; how to contextualize the works by various authors into a coherent assessment of the relative historiography; how to bring these critical and analytical skills together with your reading to bear on the key question of how contemporary society responds to the challenges of climate and broader environmental changes and crises.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS: HIEU 166GS will include assessment based on response papers written in reaction to assigned readings, weekly journal entries chronicling the students' connection of reading themes to their experience *in situ*, and a final paper.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Week 1: *Toward an environmental definition of the Mediterranean*

The Mediterranean in History (ed. D. Abulafia): Chapter 1: "The Physical Setting," by Oliver Rackham, (pp. 33-66) [**available on Canvas**]

Peregrine Horden & Nicholas Purcell *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2000), Ch. I ("A Geographical Expression") (pp. 9-25); Ch. IV ("Ecology and the Larger Settlement") (pp. 89-122) [**available on Canvas**]

Vincenzo Artale, Wilhelm May, Ricardo M. Trigo, and Elena Xoplaki, "The Mediterranean Climate: An Overview of the Main Characteristics and Issues," *Developments in Earth and Environmental Sciences* 14 (January 2006): 149-177. [**available on Canvas**]

Week 2: *Mediterranean Transformations: Reading Climate Shifts in Human & Natural Archives*

Vaso Seirinidou, "Notes from the Edges. Environmental History Writing in a Mediterranean 'Periphery,'" in *Environmental History in the Making*: Volume I: Explaining, ed. Estelita Vaz, Cristina Joanaz de Melo, and Lígia M. Costa Pinto (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2017): 207-21. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-41085-2_12.

L. Sadori, Adele Bertini, Nathalie Combourieu-Nebout, Katerina Kouli, Marta Mariotti Lippi, Neil Roberts, and Anna Maria Mercuri, "Palynology and Mediterranean Vegetation History," *Flora Mediterranea* 23 (2013): 141-156. https://doi.org/10.7320/FlMedit23.141.

Adam Izdebski, Adam, Karin Holmgren, Erika Weiberg, Sharon R. Stocker, Ulf Büntgen, Assunta Florenzano, Alexandra Gogou, et al., "Realising Consilience: How Better Communication between Archaeologists, Historians and Natural Scientists Can Transform the Study of Past Climate Change in the Mediterranean," *Quaternary Science Reviews* 136 (March 3, 2016): 5–22. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2015.10.038.

Elena Xoplaki, Dominik Fleitmann, Juerg Luterbacher, Sebastian Wagner, John F. Haldon, Eduardo Zorita, Ioannis Telelis, Andrea Toreti, and Adam Izdebski, "The Medieval Climate Anomaly and Byzantium: A Review of the Evidence on Climatic Fluctuations, Economic Performance and Societal Change," *Quaternary Science Reviews*, Special Issue: Mediterranean Holocene Climate, Environment and Human Societies, 136 (2016): 229–52. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2015.10.004.

Week 3: *Good Times: The Medieval Optimum*

Peregrine Horden, "The Maritime, the Ecological, the Cultural – and the Fig Leaf: Prospects for Medieval Mediterranean Studies," in *Can We Talk Mediterranean?*

Conversations on an Emerging Field in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, ed. Brian A. Catlos & Sharon Kinoshita (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017): 65-79. [**available on Canvas**]

M. Ruiz and J. P. Ruiz, "Ecological History of Transhumance in Spain," *Biological Conservation* 37, no. 1 (1986): 73-86. https://doi.org/ 10.1016/0006-3207(86)90035-2.

John Haldon, Neil Roberts, Adam Izdebski, Dominik Fleitmann, Michael McCormick, Marica Cassis, Owen Doonan, Warren Eastwood, Hugh Elton, and Sabine Ladstätter, "The Climate and Environment of Byzantine Anatolia: Integrating Science, History, and Archaeology," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 45, no. 2 (2014): 113–61. [**available on Canvas**]

Site visit: to the **vineyard** operated by the American College of the Mediterranean

- guided tour by Professor Anthony Triolo, to address ways viticulture in a variety of Mediterranean settings is adjusting and adapting to climate change.
- Students will gain an understanding of the historical context for viticulture in the Mediterranean
- Students will gain an appreciation for the chemistry involved in viticulture
- Students will learn about adaptations in viticulture in the age of climate change
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Week 4: *The Little Ice Age in the Mediterranean*

Sam White, "The real little ice age," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 44:3 (2014): 327-352. [**available on Canvas**]

John Pickrell, "Did 'Little Ice Age' Create Stradivarius Violins' Famous Tone?" *National Geographic News* (July 2, 2007)

Dario Camuffo, Chiara Bertolin, Patrizia Schenal, Alberto Craievich, and Rossella Granziero, "The Little Ice Age in Italy from Documentary Proxies and Early Instrumental Records," *Méditerranée. Revue Géographique des Pays Méditerranéens / Journal of Mediterranean Geography*, no. 122 (2014): 17-30. https://doi.org/10.4000/ mediterranee.7005.

Andrea E. Duffy, "Some Like It Hot: Mediterranean Societies at the End of the Little Ice Age," *Agricultural History* 94, no. 2 (2020): 176-204. https://doi.org/10.3098/ah. 2020.094.2.176.

Syun-Ichi Akasofu, "On the Recovery from the Little Ice Age," *Natural Science* 02, no. 11 (2010): 1211-24. https://doi.org/10.4236/ns.2010.211149.

Site visit: to the **Carrières de Bibémus**, a quarry just east of Aix.

- We will take a guided tour that informs visitors of the way this quarry has been used for two millennia, resulting in the characteristic red ochre hue of many buildings in Aix.

- Students will also learn about how Paul Cézanne explored the site late in his life, painting Mont Sainte-Victoire from this vantage point, and also exploring the deep geological time visible in the exposed stone of the quarry
- This visit encompasses environmental history, urban history, and art history.

Week 5: *Living on the Edge: The Anthropocene in the Mediterranean*

Flor Regus, Isabelle Laffont-Schwob, Pascale Prudent, Lisa Foli, Yvan Capowiez, Julianne Capelle, Rayhane Hamrouni, Nathalie Dupuy, Hélène Folzer, Anne Marie Farnet da Silva, "Challenges in viticulture practices in a changing environment: Can green waste amendment benefit soil properties of vineyards in the Mediterranean?" *Geoderma Regional*, vol. 38 (2024). [**available on Canvas**]

Marcos Rodrigues, Juan de la Riva, Dario Domingo, Teresa Lamelas, Paloma Ibarra, Raúl Hoffrén, Alberto García-Martín, "An empirical assessment of the potential of post-fire recovery of tree-forest communities in Mediterranean environments," *Forest Ecology and Management* vol. 552 (2024) [**available on Canvas**]

Michael Kempf, "Climate Change, the Arab Spring, and COVID-19: Impacts on landcover transformations in the Levant," *Journal of Arid Environments* vol. 221 (2024) [**available on Canvas**]

Ian Angus, "When Did the Anthropocene Begin...and Why Does It Matter?" *Monthly Review* (September 2015) http://dx.doi.org/10.14452/MR-067-04-2015-08_1.

Site visit: to **Mont Sainte-Victoire**, to a site that burned in a forest fire August 28, 1989.
- Now, more than three decades after the event, we will study the way the area and the local community have rebounded from the catastrophic event
- Students will learn about the measures the local governing bodies have taken to address fire risk in this Mediterranean environment in a time of increasing climate variability and more frequent episodes of extreme heat and drought.