



MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE

Professor: Dr. Jessica Greenfield

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Office: 228 Furman Hall (Culturforum in Sicily)

Office Hours: by appointment

Required Textbooks:

- Benjamin, Sandra. *Sicily: Three thousand years of human history*.
- Abundant additional resources are posted on the course page in Blackboard. Articles, book and chapter excerpts, and links to e-books are available to help you with your research. Please be sure to peruse the many, many resources I have compiled that relate to our course topic.
- The library at Culturforum is also stocked with books, magazines, and 3D recreations that may prove useful during the course.

Course Description and Objectives: Welcome to Mediterranean Culture! The goal of this class is to explore the different cultures that have dominated the Mediterranean throughout history. We will explore the material culture of the Mediterranean through visits to different archeological sites, exploration of the contributions of different peoples, and also engage in dynamic discussion with visiting scholars and tour guides. Additionally, you will be engaged in a program of networked learning – the coursework, exploration, and learning you complete in this course will help guide other students in the Italian Studies program at Vanderbilt as well as contribute to a robust collection of authentic Mediterranean Culture authentic resources that will be available to anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of the field. Visit my.vanderbilt.edu/maymesterinsicily to see more of this ongoing, vibrant project.

Approach: The course will be conducted in English, yet we will be visiting Sicily. In class, through homework, and through field trips, you will be guided through a variety of communicative activities, which will expose you to a rich input of Mediterranean culture. Small group activities are commonplace and must be approached with a spirit of teamwork. *Your daily preparation and participation are crucial to the success of our classroom experience.* The class is learner-centered, therefore, much of your acquisition is dependent on your involvement with the readings and materials outside of the classroom so that you can contribute to dynamic class debate. You will also be an active

participant and contributor to an open course blog. You will be asked to submit photos, videos, and written testimonials based on your experiences in Sicily. The course blog will serve as a repository of authentic resources for future students of Italian, so the more you can contribute of your own experiences and discoveries, the more helpful you are to future students of Italian language and culture. This course is an integral part of the networked learning process that serves Italian Studies at Vanderbilt University – please feel free to inquire more about this new and successful pedagogical approach to language and culture learning.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. **Daily attendance is crucial for your success in this course.** It is vital for learning to be in class in order to be exposed as much as possible to the course content. If you are absent, you will miss important information and discussion. Your class participation cannot be judged if you are not present, and your fellow students depend on you for group work and discussion.

Absences will have a negative impact on your grade. *A maximum of one unexcused absence is allowed in this course to accommodate illness or personal emergencies.* Beyond that number, one percentage point will be deducted from final grades for each extra absence unless such absences are documented adequately by a doctor, a dean, a potential employer, or another appropriate authority.

In Sicily, you must check in with your instructor even if you opt to take an unexcused absence. For safety, your instructor needs to know if you need medical attention, help with locating resources, etc. It is your prerogative to miss class for any reason, but please keep in contact for peace of mind.

Absences for a religious holiday do not have to be justified with a written excuse. You do, however, have to inform your instructor in advance of the absence. The university chaplain's web site (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/religiouslife/policy.html>) declares: "It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the semester."

If you experience a personal or a family emergency that requires you to be absent, please **contact your Dean**. He or she will notify your instructor of your inability to meet your academic obligations.

GRADING GUIDELINES:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

1. Participation	15%
2. Experience blog posts (5)	15%
3. Observational blog post	15%
4. One-on-one interview blog post	15%
5. Video tour blog post	15%
6. Final project	25%

1. Participation: Participation is imperative for success in this immersive cultural experience. You should make an effort to engage in daily course discussion, respectfully challenge your peers, and to be an active and engaged member of our sites visits. The more you can engage in the local culture, the more you will take away from this experience – make an effort to meet new people, try new foods, and make meaningful and lasting memories. Allow yourself to feel challenged, ask the difficult questions, and enjoy the opportunity to venture outside of your comfort zone while being supported by your peers and travel mates.

2. Experience blog posts (5): Please consult the blog requirements document on Blackboard for further details and grading rubrics.

3. Observational blog post: Please consult the blog requirements document on Blackboard for further details and grading rubrics.

4. One-on-one interview blog post: Please consult the blog requirements document on Blackboard for further details and grading rubrics.

5. Video tour blog post: Please consult the blog requirements document on Blackboard for further details and grading rubrics.

6. Final project: You will be asked to create a final paper or project that encompasses the material presented in the course and addresses sites visited during the Maymester. You should be thinking about your final topic throughout the trip so that you can take pictures, collect materials, and ask appropriate questions to tour guides, visiting scholars, and your instructor. I would like you to create an interactive, dynamic, creative representation of your experience in the Mediterranean. You will have several opportunities to meet with me and talk through the ideas you have for your topic and presentational method.

GRADING SCALE:

	89-88 B+	79-78 C+	69-68 D+	59-0 F
100-94 A	87-84 B	77-74 C	67-64 D	
93-90 A-	83-80 B-	73-70 C-	63-60 D-	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Several electronic resources are generously being provided for you by your instructor. You will have access to an external microphone that is compatible with your smart phone/iPad/laptop and access to several actions cams. These items belong to Vanderbilt University, so please treat them with respect. You should bring your smart phone, camera, and other recording devices with you at all times so you can record authentic exchanges and interesting encounters. If you would like to record your instructor or tour guide be sure to ask permission in advance. **If your phone rings in class, you get to bring treats for the class at the following class meeting.**

2. Please DO NOT eat in class. You may bring a drink to class but please keep it in a closed container as many students will be working with laptops and other electronic devices.

3. If you have a **learning disability** (or think that you might have one) please let your instructor know as soon as possible so that your needs can be accommodated.

4. Vanderbilt operates under the **honor system**. Any work that is graded must be your own.

DAILY SCHEDULE - MAYMESTER 2017

Remember, you are responsible for pre-reading the material to be covered in class and/or in preparation for site visits.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READING TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS</u>	<u>DAILY TOPIC</u>	<u>HOMEWORK</u> (due on date listed)
Monday May 8	Introduction	ARRIVE IN SICILY	
Tuesday May 9	Ch. 1: Lipari	Indigenous populations; Phoenicians and cultural exchange	Arrival sample experience blog
Wednesday May 10		Solunto site visit	
Thursday May 11	Ch. 2: The Greek Period	Greeks in the Mediterranean	Apartment sample video blog
Friday May 12	Transition: The Romans Ch. 3: Romance	Romans in the Mediterranean	Experience blog #1 (written)
Saturday May 13		Segestsa / Mozia site visits	
Monday May 15	Transition: Germanic Peoples Ch. 4: Vandals, Goths, Byzantines	Piazza Armerina / Agrigento site visits	Observational blog post
Tuesday May 16	Transitions: The Coming of the Muslims Ch. 5: Muslims	Byzantines and Muslims in Sicily	Participation self- assessment #1
Wednesday May 17		Siracusa site visit (Greek theater performance)	
Thursday May 18		Siracusa site visit (Ortigia, Cattedrale, Castello Maniace)	Experience blog #2 (written + photos)
Friday May 19		Siracusa site visit (catacombs)	

Saturday May 20		La Rocca site visit	
Monday May 22	Transition: The Coming of the Normans Ch. 6: Normans	Muslims and Normans	
Tuesday May 23	Transition: Hauteville to Hohenstaufen Ch. 7: Hohenstaufens	Palermo / Monreale site visits	Experience blog #3 (written + short video)
Wednesday May 24	Transition: Garibaldi Ch. 10: The Savoy Kingdom	Mafia and the Modern Mediterranean	Participation self-assessment #2
Thursday May 25		Cinisi / Carini site visits	
Friday May 26 - Monday May 29	<i>FREE WEEKEND</i>		
Tuesday May 30		Etna / Taormina site visits	Experience blog #4 (edited video)
Wednesday May 31	Transition: WWII and its Aftermath Ch. 11: Autonomous Region	Monarchy, the Mediterranean today, Immigration	
Thursday June 1		Corso di cucina	
Friday June 2		Final presentation day	Experience blog #5 (edited video)
Saturday June 3		RETURN TO US	