

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

**Summer 2012**

**Discipline: American Studies**

**AMST 2500: Introduction to Transnational American Studies: Comparative Mediterraneanisms**

**Division: Lower**

**Faculty Name: Anna Brickhouse**

**Pre-requisites:**

None

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This comparative and interdisciplinary course focuses on the encounter between (U.S.-) Americans and the Mediterranean as represented in literature and film. Working across a range of historical periods, we will explore the varied and often unacknowledged international contexts underpinning some of our most familiar narratives of Americans abroad in the two mediterraneans that frame our voyage (Caribbean and the Southern European/Northern African). At the same time, we will pay particular attention to the different ways in which literature and other cultural forms can access histories, voices, and perspectives often not available within more official accounts of the past and present.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course aims to introduce students to the basic methods of American Studies, establishing a kind of meta-conversation about our modes of interpreting culture: as we move through the course, we will try to refine our self-consciousness of the different assumptions we bring to how we read texts, view films, interpret, and make arguments.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

**AUTHOR:** Hemingway, Ernest  
**TITLE:** The Sun Also Rises  
**PUBLISHER:** Scribner  
**ISBN #:** 0743297334  
**DATE/EDITION:**  
**COST:** \$10.20

**AUTHOR:** James, Henry

TITLE: Daisy Miller  
PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press  
ISBN #: 0199538565  
DATE/EDITION:  
COST: \$6.95

AUTHOR: Twain, Mark  
TITLE: Innocents Abroad  
PUBLISHER: Beaufoy  
ISBN #: 1906780056  
DATE/EDITION:  
COST: \$12.21

AUTHOR: Hayes, Billy  
TITLE: Midnight Express  
PUBLISHER: Sphere  
ISBN #: 0751508810  
DATE/EDITION:  
COST: \$3.98

AUTHOR: Bowles, Paul  
TITLE: The Sheltering Sky  
PUBLISHER: Harper Perennial  
ISBN #: 006083482X  
DATE/EDITION:  
COST: \$10.95

## TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

[Freeport, Bahamas]

C1 Course introduction and overview

C2 *What is a free port?*

Frederick Douglass, *The Heroic Slave*

C3 *What is Freedom?*

William Wells Brown, *The American Fugitive in Europe* (excerpts)

C4 *Transatlantic Crossing*

Brown, *American Fugitive*, cont.

C5 *The Romance of Travel*

Woody Allen, *Vicky, Christina, Barcelona* (film)

C6 *Fictions of Expatriation*

Henry James, "From a Roman Notebook"

C7 *Expatriates and Spectacle*

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*

C8 Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, cont.

[Spain: 4 days]

[Global Studies Italy Day]

[Italy: 6 days]

C9 *American Humor, Mediterranean Culture*

Mark Twain, *Innocents Abroad*

C10 Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, cont.

[Croatia: 4 days]

C11 *The Perils of Representation*

Billy Hayes, *Midnight Express*

C12 *Midnight Express* (1978 film dir. by Alan Parker)

[Greece: 4 days]

[Global Studies Turkey Day]

[Turkey: 5 days]

C13 **Midterm Exam**

C14 *Desire and the Spectacle of the Foreign: The Case of Cleopatra*

*Cleopatra* (1963 film, dir. Joseph Mankiewicz)

[Egypt: 5 days]

- C15            *American Marriage on the Move*  
                 Paul Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky*
- C16            Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky*, cont.”
- C17            *The Sheltering Sky* (1990 film, dir. Bernardo Bertolucci)
- C18            *Orientalism*  
                 Excerpt from Said, *Orientalism*  
                 George Melford, *The Sheik* (1921)
- C19            *Casablanca* (1942 film, dir. by Michael Curtiz)

[Morocco: 4 days]

- C20            American Innocence  
                 James, *Daisy Miller*
- C21            *Daisy Miller* continued and Wharton, “Roman Fever”
- C22            Willaim Wyler, *Roman Holiday*
- C23            Final Exam

**FIELD ASSIGNMENTS** (*At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course.*)

As you know, twenty percent of your grade for all S@S courses will be determined by your participation in the Field Program. Our fieldwork for this course has been designed to help us think as individuals and a class about the processes and legacies of U.S.-Mediterranean encounter, both as they have shaped the works we'll be reading and as we see them embodied in our travel. We will be investigating how particular sites of public memory (cities, museums, cathedrals, ruins, and so on) serve to generate their own stories about encounters between the domestic and the foreign, emplotting different historical trajectories. We will in turn be asking how these stories support, supplement, or undermine the narratives of encounter that we find in the literary texts we read and the films we watch. In the field work component of the course, you will be responsible for writing one 3-5-page essay related to the field practicum we undertake as a class and seven 1-2-page reaction papers responding to fieldwork visits of your choice (including those affiliated with other SAS courses you are taking).

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Two 3-5-page analytical essays (15% each)

One 3-5-page essay corresponding to the FDP (15%)

Seven 1-2-page fieldwork reaction papers (20% total)

Class Participation (15% total)

(includes written responses to question sets for all classes except when essays are due)

Final Paper, 5-7 pages (20%)