EURO-GA 2670 A Modern Mediterranean Region: Myth or Reality

From the time of Fernand Braudel’s magnum opus La Méditerranée et le Monde Méditerranéen à l’Epoque de Philippe II (1949) the Mediterranean has been reconfigured extensively not only in political, economic and cultural terms but also in the ways in which it is viewed, experienced and conceptualized. This interdisciplinary course aspires to look at the modern Mediterranean as a space of complexity, generating “old” style conflicts – including genocide, ethnic cleansing, and riots – and “new” phenomena such as radical urban transformation, mass tourism, dynamic social movements and hybrid identities. The course explores the region in terms of both the scholarly (historical, anthropological) but also the literary imagination in its wider facets (literary, cinematic) and focuses on issues of memory and political uses of the past. The course includes a theoretical component (on issues regarding nationalism, orientalism, exoticism) and various case studies that cover both the Eastern and Western Mediterranean, including divided cities (Jerusalem, Beirut), cosmopolitan nostalgia (Istanbul, Salonica, Smyrna), the decolonization of North Africa, the memory of Italian war crimes, the Jewish and Armenian genocides, Spanish amnesia regarding Franco, and Cypriot mass graves after 1974.