



VIU Graduate seminar **mediterranean** **HISTORY** and national **HISTORIOGRAPHIES**

**Mediterranean History
and National Historiographies**

June 22-26, 2026

**Venice International University
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

VIU Graduate Seminar

Mediterranean History and National Historiographies

Venice International
University

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Scientific Coordinator:
Abdurrahman Atçıl and
Tommaso Stefini
(Sabancı University)

VIU Global Challenges
Initiatives

For centuries, the Mediterranean has been a crossroads where peoples, ideas, and powers encountered one another. From the Crusades to World War I, the region witnessed constant interactions through trade, diplomacy, religion, law, and cultural exchange, as well as military conflict, all of which shaped political and social life across three continents. Recent scholarship has demonstrated that these connections were not peripheral but central to the histories of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Yet Mediterranean history often remains at the margins of global and national historiographies. Global history has tended to privilege the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, while national histories have narrowly focused on the modern nation-state, isolating developments within fixed borders. This seminar challenges those boundaries and invites participants to explore how Mediterranean history, grounded in primary sources and framed through a comparative perspective, can reshape our understanding of the past and open new pathways for thinking about both global and national histories.

This Graduate Seminar will be led by

- Sabancı University
- Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- University of Exeter

Faculty

Abdurrahman Atçıl, Sabancı University

Tommaso Stefini, Sabancı University

Vera Costantini, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Maria Fusaro, University of Exeter

Isabella Lazzarini, Turin University

Banu Turnaoğlu, Sabancı University

Methodology

The Graduate Seminar will involve a combination of lectures, workshops, group discussions, and case studies.

Topics

1. Political conceptions and practices across the Mediterranean
2. Economic conceptions and practices across the Mediterranean
3. Cultural systems and translation across the Mediterranean
4. Diplomacy and international law in the Mediterranean

Learning outcomes for participants

- acquiring knowledge of the general trajectory of the connected history of the Mediterranean world from the Crusades to World War I.
- learning the distinctive features of Mediterranean history as field of historical analysis and practice.
- critically reading and discussing selected primary sources and secondary sources and experimenting in producing historical knowledge from the perspective of Mediterranean history.
- practicing critique of general histories of the world and national historiographies on the basis of the insights of Mediterranean history.
- reflecting on the utility of Mediterranean history for addressing the global challenges humankind faces today.

Who can apply?

This Graduate Seminar is offered to Master students, PhD students, and junior researchers in History, Cultural Studies, Political Science and International Relations, and Gender Studies, Archaeology and History.

Open to candidates from all the VIU Member Institutions; applications from excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered and evaluated.

Fees & Grant Support

Full fee waiver scholarships are available for students from VIU member institutions. In addition, grant support is available to support partially or fully the costs of international travel. Accommodation is provided free of charge. The participation fee for students of non-member institutions is Euro 1.150 VAT included. The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes. Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support. VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

Credits

Participation in the Graduate Seminar is considered equivalent to **2 ECTS**.

The program is available on the VIU website.

Applications

December 2, 2025– February 28, 2026 via the VIU website

Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of motivation – which should include a brief description of the candidate's research interests, a curriculum vitae, and a photo.

VIU Graduate Seminars

These are thematic intensive seminars given in a concentrated period on subjects of universal interest, open to a broad spectrum of disciplines. They are suited to both Master's and PhD students as well as junior researchers and are open to candidates from all the VIU member institutions. The young researchers will receive support in defining their research proposal. Significant cooperation among departments in the member institutions is expected.

Venice International University is a consortium of 23 institutions, representing 14 countries throughout the world. The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research, and training/capacity-building programs. Students from non-member institutions may participate in selected academic programs. The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Location



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