OUT OF EDEN: HISTORIES OF EXPULSION IN THE PRE-MODERN WEST

INSTRUCTOR: ROWAN DORIN
SEMESTER: FALL 2013
COURSE TIME & LOCATION: TUESDAYS, 1-3PM IN ROBINSON HALL 106
COURSE WEBSITE: HTTP://ISITES.HARVARD.EDU/ICB/ICB.DO?KEYWORD=K95377
OFFICE HOURS: ROBINSON 116 – TUESDAYS, 10:15-11:45AM
EMAIL: DORIN@FAS.HARVARD.EDU

Masaccio, The Expulsion from Eden (detail), Cappella Brancacci, S. Maria del Carmine, Florence
The Expulsion of Heretics from Carcassonne, London, British Library, MS Cotton Nero E. II pt. 2, fol. 20v (detail)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The 20th century has rightly been called the ‘Century of Expulsions’, and debates over deportation practices regularly blaze across contemporary newspaper headlines throughout Europe and America. Yet if the modern scale of such practices is unparalleled in human history, their pedigree extends back millennia. This undergraduate seminar will explore the long history of expulsion and exile in Western societies, tracing the relationship between different exclusionary practices from the mass deportations of ancient Near Eastern empires, to the outlawing of murderers in saga-era Iceland, to the landscape of exile in Renaissance Italy.

The principal goal of this course is to help you develop and write a substantial (ca. 20pp) piece of original research. Accordingly, each week we will focus on a different conceptual framework for studying the history of expulsion, accompanied by close readings of primary texts and discussions of relevant secondary literature.
The course is open to any interested student, but it has been designed for upper-level history concentrators, and it accordingly assumes a firm grounding in historical analysis and argumentation. No specific historical background is required, although familiarity with the broad outlines of pre-modern European history will be an asset. All course readings will be in English, with primary sources given in translation. Enrollment is capped at 12; in the event that the course is over-subscribed, preference will be given to History concentrators.

**Course Requirements:**

1) **Weekly Readings:** Each week's readings generally consist of a set of primary sources and a set of three related articles or book chapters, generally totaling ca. 100 pages. In addition, a list of optional further readings will be circulated in advance of each week's meeting for those students wishing to explore a given topic in greater depth. All readings are available either online or via the course website. In the course of the readings, you are likely to encounter many unfamiliar names and terms. You are strongly encouraged to consult the [Oxford Classical Dictionary](https://www.oxfordclassics.com), the [Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages](https://www.oxforddnb.com), or other online resources, as appropriate.

2) **Weekly Response Papers:** Starting with Week 2, you will be expected to submit a short response to the weekly readings. For some weeks, you will be allowed to write on any topic of your choice; other weeks will have specific prompts aimed at helping you develop your own research paper. Response papers should be approximately 1 page, single-spaced (max. 600 words), and they should be submitted to the appropriate dropbox on the course iSites by 5pm the day before the seminar. You are allowed to skip one response paper over the course of the semester.

3) **Research Paper:** The principal aim of this course is to help you develop and write a substantial (ca. 20pp) piece of original research. You may write on any topic of your choice (in consultation with me), including periods and places that fall outside the scope of the seminar, so long as your topic engages meaningfully with the broad themes of the course. We will be discussing research resources and strategies throughout the semester, particularly in Week 4. A number of useful links can be found via [Inter Libros](https://www.interlibros.com), the Harvard Library's Research Guide for Classics, Byzantine, & Medieval Studies. (For those of you interested in exploring themes that lay further afield, I will happily guide you towards other research tools.) By Week 8, you must submit an annotated bibliography that briefly discusses principal primary and secondary sources relating to your chosen topic. A draft of the final paper (min. 12pp) is due in Week 12, and the final paper is due on the last day of Reading Period. You will also be asked to give a ca. 10-minute presentation on your topic towards the end of the semester. Further details on all of these assignments will be provided over the course of the semester.

4) **Attendance:** Weekly attendance is mandatory and any non-emergency absences must be discussed with me well in advance.

5) **Office Hours:** All students are expected to stop by my office hours (or, if you have a conflict, to set up an appointment at another time) before the 3rd week of the semester, so that we can discuss your background and interests. I encourage you to attend office hours regularly over the course of the semester, whether to discuss the weekly readings, paper ideas, or anything else.
COLLABORATION POLICY

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work, and you are encouraged to discuss course readings and paper topics with your peers. Any written work you submit for evaluation, however, must be the result of your own research and writing and must reflect your own approach to the topic. You must also be sure to properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Attendance, Participation: 20%
Response Papers (due weekly): 15%
Annotated Bibliography (due Week 8): 10%
In-Class Presentation (during Weeks 12-14): 15%
Draft of Final Paper (due Week 12): 15%
Final Paper (due the last day of Reading Period): 25%

PART 1: VOCABULARIES OF EXCLUSION

WEEK 1 (3 SEPTEMBER): INTRODUCTION

PART 2: CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

WEEK 2 (10 SEPTEMBER): CHOOSING A PERSPECTIVE - MASS DEPORTATIONS IN THE NEAR EASTERN KINGDOMS


WEEK 3 (17 SEPTEMBER): INSIDERS & OUTSIDERS - OSTRACISM & BANISHMENT IN ANCIENT GREEK CITY-STATES


**Week 4 (24 Sept.): Spaces of Expulsion - The Practice of Exile in the Roman Empire**

**Primary Readings:** Ovid, *Tristia*, excerpts; Plutarch, *On Exile*; Justinian’s Digest (Book 48), excerpts


*Introduction to Research Methods and Resources*

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**Part 3: The Middle Ages**

**Week 5 (1 Oct.): The Social Function of Expulsion - Outlawry in the Germanic Traditions**

**Primary Readings:** *Grágás*, excerpts; *Grettir’s Saga*


**Week 6 (8 Oct.): Theory and Practice - Excommunication and Its Efficacy**

**Primary Readings:** Matt 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:3-13; Titus 3:10-11; Arthur C. Howland, ed. and trans., *Ordeals, compurgation, excommunication, and interdict* (Philadelphia: Department of History of the University of Philadelphia, 1898), pt. 4, nos. 2-6; Galbert of Bruges, *The Murder of Charles the Good*, cc. 113-155 [War of the Anathemas]


**Week 7 (15 Oct.): Contagion and Segregation - Lepers and Leprosy in Medieval Europe**

**Primary Readings:** Leviticus 13:46; Numbers 12:1-16; 2 Kings 5: 1-27; Hartmann von Aue, *Poor Heinrich*, selections from legal, religious and scientific texts

WEEK 8 (22 OCT.): EVOLVING MODALITIES OF REGULATION – RESPONSES TO PROSTITUTION & HERESY

Primary Readings: Edward Peters, ed., Heresy and Authority in Medieval Europe (Philadelphia: UPenn Press, 1980), selections; excerpts from 13th c French urban statutes concerning prostitution


*Annotated Bibliography Due

WEEK 9 (29 OCT.): REASON(ING)S OF STATE - EXPPELLING JEWS IN THE 13TH AND 14TH CENTURIES


WEEK 10 (5 NOV.): THE LIMITS OF COMPULSION – CONTUMACY, ABJURATION, AND THE BAN IN THE HIGH AND LATE MIDDLE AGES

Primary Readings: Excerpts from Mediterranean urban statutes; 1302 condemnations of Dante; Daniel Lord Smail & Kelly Gibson, eds., Vengeance in Medieval Europe: A Reader (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009), nos. 119c, 119e, 120c, 123.


WEEK 11 (12 NOV.): ‘GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS BURDEN OF EXILE’ – FATES OF EXILES IN RENAISSANCE ITALY


PART 4: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

WEEK 12 (19 NOV.): MEMORY AND MYTHMAKING – EXPULSIONS AND THEIR AFTERLIFE
*Draft of Final Paper Due
*In-class Presentations

WEEK 13 (26 NOV.): EXILE AND EXPULSION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY [WILDCARD WEEK]
*In-class Presentations

WEEK 14 (3 DEC.): EDEN’S OFFSPRING - EXILE AND EXPULSION IN THE LONGUE DURÉE
*In-class Presentations
*Final Papers due on the last day of Reading Period