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HS 307: The Liberating Sea? Mass Migration in the Ancient Mediterranean

The 2015 Refugee Crisis brought into focus for the world what is actually a very old phenomenon: the mass migration of individuals across the Mediterranean Sea. Furthermore, it is one that doesn't show any signs of abating, with most estimates of future global migrants and refugees being in the tens of millions of individuals. The reasons for mass migration as well as the direction, however, have often differed remarkably over time. In this course, set appropriately on the island of Lesbos, we will examine how mass migration in the Mediterranean is not a new phenomenon, and in fact was as significant, if not more so, in the Ancient World. Why is this the case? In order to answer this broader question, it is important to consider: why do people migrate? Is it a personal, or political driven decision? What role does the environment play in mass migrations? How did conflict affect mass migration in the Mediterranean in the ancient world? How did mass migration at this time affect the region politically, economically, socially, and environmentally? By answering these questions, students will have not only a better understanding of the Mediterranean sea in the ancient world, but gain insight into contemporary developments as well.

Grade Scheme

Participation:	20%
Paper Proposal	20%
Book Review	20%
Final Paper:	40%