



THE MEDITERRANEAN

A Religious History (REL 114)

Tues/Thurs 2-3:20 pm

Professors

**Cavan Concannon &
Jessica Marglin**

Beaches; diets; debt default; refugees—today the Mediterranean conjures images as diverse as the hedonistic excesses of drunk tourists, the promises of eternal youth, and the tragedy of forced migration. But the Mediterranean is more than fads and headlines; the Great Sea, as it is often called, was cradle to many of the cultures that have shaped our modern world. Indeed, one could argue that all three Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—were forged in the crucible of the Mediterranean basin. This course will examine the history of the Mediterranean as a meeting point of religions, cultures, markets, languages, and ideas. We will take an innovative approach to understanding Mediterranean history—not as a series of civilizations succeeding one another, but as a meeting point among civilizations, a place where diversity was the norm long before terms like multi-culturalism had been invented.