

Maritime Studies

CAS NS 222 (3 credits)

Course Catalog Description:

Relationship between humans and the sea. History, literature and art of our maritime heritage. Ships as agents of contact change. Political and economic challenges of contemporary marine affairs.

Instructor: SEA Maritime Studies Faculty

Location: SEA campus in Woods Hole, MA

Course Philosophy and Approach:

For six weeks during the shore component in Woods Hole, classes revolve around secondary and some primary readings that range from accounts of first contact in the Americas to forced and free circulation of people and ideas throughout the Atlantic to the Haitian Revolution and on to the development of modern high capacity cargo and passenger ships. Class discussions of these topics are geared toward placing the history of the Western Atlantic and the Caribbean islands and the dynamic history of trade and navigation to, from and within these regions into a broader Atlantic and global history context. This context is inclusive of patterns of human exploration, exploitation and conservation of the marine environment as well as the significance of migrations of people and ideas and the transport of goods along ocean shipping routes. Themes in *Maritime Studies* during the shore component include the development of the plantation complex and of Capitalism, resource exploitation, slave resistance, emancipation, independence movements and the rise of international industries such as sugar cultivation and tourism.

This three-credit course consists of 40 contact hours of official instruction, through lectures, discussion sessions, writing workshops, two field trips and individual meetings with students to review drafts of written work. The course calendar below provides preliminary details.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Build an understanding of the tools of the maritime, Atlantic and transnational historian.
2. Trace the impact of maritime culture and policy through literature, art, artifacts, legal documents and the physical environment.
3. Learn or hone skills in critical reading and writing of history.
4. Apply the analytical methods of maritime historians to observed characteristics of the islands and cultures visited in the Caribbean over the period of the sea component.

Evaluation:

- Class Participation
 - First Essay 30%
 - Second Essay 35%
- 35%

Assignments:

You will be required to write two argument-driven essays (7-10 pages) during the shore component.

First Essay – Cultural Interactions of the Early Modern Atlantic: This essay of 7-10 double-spaced pages is due at the end of week 3. This is worth 35% of your overall grade. A rubric will be available through Ocean Portal.

Second Essay – The Caribbean in an Atlantic and Global Context: This essay of 7-10 double-spaced pages is due at the end of week 6. This is worth 35% of your overall grade. A rubric will be available through Ocean Portal.

Expectations and Requirements:

- Punctual attendance is required at every class meeting.
- Active participation in class discussion is expected.
- Late assignment submissions are not accepted.
- The policy on academic accuracy, quoted below, will be strictly followed in this class.

The papers that you submit in this course are expected to be ***your original work***. You must take care to distinguish your own ideas and knowledge from wording or substantive information that you derive from one of your sources. The term “sources” includes not only published primary and secondary material, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people and text that you cut and paste from any site on the Internet.

The responsibility for learning the proper forms of citation lies with you.

Quotations must be placed properly within quotation marks and must be cited fully. In addition, all paraphrased material must be acknowledged completely. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from your reading and research, the sources must be indicated. (Harvard *Handbook for Students*, 305)

- Considerations for use of internet sources:
As you browse websites, assess their usefulness very critically. Who posted the information and why? Can you trust them to be correct? Authoritative? Unbiased? (It’s okay to use a biased source as long as you incorporate it knowingly and transparently into your own work.) Keep track of good sources that might be useful for subsequent assignments, and annotate in your bibliography any sites you cite. Your annotation should include the name of the author or organization originating any material that you reference. If you can’t identify the source, don’t use it!

Preliminary Reading List:

- Bolster, W. Jeffrey, 2012. *The Mortal Sea*.
- Brooks, Lisa, 2019. *Our Beloved Kin*.
- Curtin, Philip D., *The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex*.
- Dubois, Laurent, 2011. *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History*.
- Dubois, Laurent, 2004. *A Colony of Citizens*.
- Gardner, Lloyd, 2003. *Preliminary Assessment of Tourism Sector in the Context of Physical Alterations and Destruction of Habitats in the Wider Caribbean Region*.
- Houghton, Milton O., et al. "Establishment of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism," from *Marine Policy*, Volume 28, Issue 4, July 2004, 351-359.
- Kincaid, Jamaica, *A Small Place*.
- Norling, Lisa, 2000. *Captain Ahab Had a Wife*.
- Palmie, Stephan and Francisco Scarano, 2011. *The Caribbean*
- Rediker, Marcus, 1989. *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*.
- Rediker, Marcus, 2008. *The Slave Ship: A Human History*.
- Sale, Kirkpatrick, *The Conquest of Paradise*.
- Seed, Patricia. "Taking Possession and Reading Text: Establishing the Authority of Overseas Empires," *The William and Mary Quarterly, Third Series*, Volume 49, No. 2, April 1992, 183-209.
- Walcott, Derik, "The Sea is History."
- Williams, Eric. *From Columbus to Castro*.