

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER: HIS 5991**

**COURSE TITLE: Maritime History**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- **Dr. Amy Mitchell-Cook**
  - Email is preferred: amitchellcook@uwf.edu;
  - Phone: 850-857-6014
  - Building 50/Room 142.

**REFER TO THE SYLLABUS FIRST!!!**

**The syllabus answers most questions about the mechanics of the course.**

**If you find a mistake regarding dates/times, etc..please let me know.**

**WARNING: THIS IS A 15-WEEK COURSE CONDENSED INTO 8 WEEKS. YOU HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF WORK DUE IN 15 WEEKS BUT IN HALF THE TIME. THEREFORE YOU WILL HAVE TO READ A LOT AND STAY ON TOP OF THE WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS. DO NOT FALL BEHIND!**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday/Thursday, 2-4pm, or by appointment. I will be online during those hours. If you need to meet with me in person, please let me know so that I can be on campus. Late at night is NOT the time to email and expect a quick response, so do not wait until the last moment to contact me. Also, email is the best way to contact me as I may/may not be in my office to check messages.

**PREREQUISITES: None**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Survey of impact of oceans, rivers and other bodies of water upon the development of mankind. Focus on settlement in maritime areas, maritime commerce, exploration, military and naval history, social intellectual and other activities and developments impacted or influenced by the sea.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Define the impact of oceans, rivers, and other bodies of water on mankind.
- Compare and contrast the histories of various maritime cultures.
- Explain the role that exploration, commerce and warfare played in maritime history.

## TOPICS COVERED:

Maritime Communities, Exploration, Commerce and Warfare

## TEXTS:

### Required texts:

*Maritime History, Volume 1: The Age of Discovery*. Malabar, Florida: Krieger Publishing Company.

*Maritime History, Volume 2: The Eighteenth Century and the Classic Age of Sail*. Malabar, Florida: Krieger Publishing Company.

Sobel, Dava. *Illustrated Longitude: The Story of a Lone Genius who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of his Time*. New York: Walker and Co.

Craig Symonds. *The Civil War at Sea*. Greenwood.

David Cordingly. *Pirate Hunter of the Caribbean*. Random House

## GRADING / EVALUATION:

### GRADING SCALE:

A-F grades. Grading Scale based on a total of 400 points, but weighted on a 100-point scale:

- 93+ = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 88-89 = B+
- 83-87 = B
- 80-82 = B-
- 78-79 = C+
- 73-77 = C
- 70-72 = C-
- 68-69 = D+
- 60-67 = D
- Below 60 F

## Requirements:

- **Book reviews (150): Look at Book Review file for additional information**
  - TWO book reviews, each worth 50 points.
  - The book reviews are on: *Illustrated Longitude*, *Pirate Hunter*, and *Civil War*.

Book reviews can be quite difficult to write and require you to examine the book from a different perspective. But, this is a good writing exercise to

make you think critically of the information presented and not just think about content.

Remember, this is a book review and not a book report. You will need to look at the book review file in elearning to see what I expect in a good review! Above all, rather than summarize the book you should respond to a specific question or questions and step back from the content to think of how the author crafted his/her book.

(\*undergrads are only doing 2 book reviews)

- **Discussion (100 points):**

- Each reading assignment will have a discussion portion. I will provide general questions to direct the discussion. Each of you will need to bring something to the discussion. Feel free to add additional comments or questions. A good discussion entry will be thoughtful and will demonstrate that you thought critically of the information provided. **DO NOT merely repeat another student's comments...those do not count. Add something original!** You must post at least 4 times a week and you should read at least 1/2 of the other posts. (I can, and will, check each week) My advice is to post one comment early in the week and then go back to respond/add to other discussion threads.

(\*Undergrads are posting 3 times a week)

Discussion participation is due by Sunday at 11:59 pm. I WILL monitor the discussions closely!!!!

You may continue to post in discussions after the deadline. **If you fail to post by the deadline, you have a 1-day grace period, with grade reduction. After that, you receive a zero for that week's discussion.**

- **Comparison of Information Sources (50 points)**

*Assignment:* Select a research topic. Compare how that topic is treated in eight different types of sources, such as journals, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, the Internet, and books. Provide a brief comparative assessment of how the topic was presented in the different resources.

- This assignment is essentially a blend between an annotated bibliography and a historiographical essay. One of the 'nice' elements of this assignment is that you can look at popular sources.
- **Look at the Comparing information sources file in Elearning for more detail.**
- **This assignment is due 7/29, 11:59 pm.**

- **1 Examination (100 points):**

- Comprised of essay and identification questions
  - Essays must include an introduction and a conclusion and good detail between these two bookends.

- Identifications must address who, what, when where and why (as appropriate) and the significance of the terms as it relates to this course.
- **Note:** You are expected to read critically the assigned readings looking for evidence that will inform your answers to the essay questions.
- The exam will appear in elearning on 8/5, under content. It is open book...but that means I expect a lot!

**AGAIN, This is a very short course! If you miss a week, then you have missed a lot!! It is up to you to know deadlines and up to you to stay on top of the readings and assignments. I will NOT accept late assignments more than 1 day late!! If you miss an assignment then you have missed an assignment. In eight weeks I do not have time to stop grading current papers and discussions to grade a late assignment. If you do turn in paper 1 day late then you automatically receive 10 points off. As for discussions, if you are late for discussions, I will lower it one grade. After one day, you receive a zero.**

**IF LIFE GETS IN THE WAY OF YOU BEING ONLINE, THEN YOU SHOULD DROP THIS CLASS. IF YOU CANNOT BE ONLINE REGULARLY, THEN YOU SHOULD DROP THIS CLASS. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR EXCUSES IN SUCH A SHORT COURSE!!!**

## **OTHER RULES:**

- You will not automatically be withdrawn from this course. You must withdraw from the course in order to receive a "W." I cannot assign a "W" at the end of the semester. The system does not permit me to.
- As a policy, I do not assign incompletes ("I"). University requirements for earning an incomplete are very strict. You must have completed 70% of the coursework. My requirements are even stricter. I have forsaken incompletes except in EXTREME emergency circumstances. If you stay in the course, stay the course (i.e., complete the course).
  - There are no exceptions to these rules.
- You cannot contest any grade during a 24-hour "cooling off period" (that does not mean that you cannot ask questions pertaining to the test or point out tabulation errors). After 24 hours, and only after 24 hours, you may contact me regarding your grade. Do not go home and fire off an angry email to me. If you ignore these warnings, or fail to be civil in contesting a grade, there will be no redress. This benefits all parties involved, as it lets cooler heads prevail. Ultimately, if you do not agree with your final grade for the course, you can appeal your grade to a University committee. Remember, a University is a place where we agree to disagree with passion, but also with civility. **You may contest an assignment only up to 1 week after the assignment is returned. After 1 week I will not hear any discussion regarding an assignment.**

## **SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY UTILIZED BY STUDENT:**

The ability to access web resources and utilize research and writing software. The following plug-ins will be needed as well:

- Adobe Acrobat Reader:  
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>
- Macromedia Flash Player:  
[http://macromedia.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1\\_Prod\\_Version=ShockwaveFlash](http://macromedia.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash)

## **Academic Conduct Policy: EXPECTATIONS FOR ACADEMIC CONDUCT:**

- As members of the University of West Florida academic community, we commit ourselves to honesty. As we strive for excellence in performance, integrity—both personal and institutional—is our most precious asset. Honesty in our academic work is vital, and we will not knowingly act in ways which erode that integrity. Accordingly, we pledge not to cheat, nor to tolerate cheating, nor to plagiarize the work of others. We pledge to share community resources in ways that are responsible and that comply with established policies of fairness. Cooperation and competition are means to high achievement and are encouraged. Indeed, cooperation is expected unless our directive is to individual performance. We will compete constructively and professionally for the purpose of stimulating high performance and standards. Finally, we accept adherence to this set of expectations for academic conduct as a condition of membership in the UWF academic community.

## **PLAGIARISM POLICY:**

You must know and understand the University of West Florida's Plagiarism Policy. Please select the following link and read [The University of West Florida Plagiarism Policy](#).

**IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR PLAGIARISM, IN ANY FORM!!!!**

## **ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:**

Students with special needs who required specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), [dss@uwf.edu](mailto:dss@uwf.edu), (850) 474-2387. DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations

## COURSE SCHEDULE

- **Week 1:**
  - 6/18:
    - **Read the syllabus!!! And, I do mean, read the syllabus.**
  - **From Oars to Sails: Maritime History to the Late Medieval Period.**
    - **Read chapters 1-3, Volume I, *Maritime History*.**
    - **Discussion due Sunday, June 24th, by 11:59 pm**
- **Week 2:**
  - 6/25:
  - **READ *ILLUSTRATED LONGITUDE***
    - **Read chapters 5-10, *Maritime History* Volume 2**
    - **Book Review of *Longitude* due on Saturday, June 30th by 11:59pm**
    - **Discussion due Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, by 11:59 pm**
- **Week 3:**
  - 7/2:
  - **Portuguese Expansion.**
    - **Read chapters 4-6, Volume I, *Maritime History***
  - **Spanish Exploration and the Conquest of the Atlantic.**
    - **Read chapters 11-13, 15-17 Volume I, *Maritime History*.**
    - **Discussion Due Sunday, 7/8, midnight**
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- **Week 4:**
  - 7/9:
  - ***Pirate Hunter of the Caribbean***
    - **Book Review due Saturday, 7/14, by 11:59 pm**
    - **Discussion due Sunday, 7/15 by 11:59 pm**
- **Week 5:**
  - 7/16:
  - **Eighteenth century**
    - **Read chapters 1-4, 13-19, Volume II, *Maritime History*.**
    - **Discussion due Sunday, 7/22, 11:59 pm**
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- **Week 6:**
  - 7/23:
  - **Legacy of Empire**
    - **Read chapters, 20-24, Volume II, *Maritime History***
    - **Discussions due by Sunday, 7/29, by 11:59 pm**
    - **Comparison of Sources due by 7/29, 11:59 pm**
- **Week 7:**
  - 7/30:
    - **Read *The Civil War at Sea***

- **Book Review due Saturday, Saturday, 8/4, by 11:59 pm**
- Discussion due by Sunday, 8/5, by 11:59 pm
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- **Finals Week:**
  - 8/5:
    - Final Exam will appear on 8/5, 8:00am, under course content.
    - **Final Exam Due by 8/8 by 11:59**

Important files you should become familiar with to successfully pass this course. These files are under content in elearning.

**Course Schedule**

**Book Reviews**

**How to Write**