

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Prefix/Number: AMH 6990 **North American Seafaring**

Course Credit Hours: 3.0

Instructor Name and Contact Information: Dr. Amy Mitchell-Cook
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Phone: 857-6014 50/142

Office Hours: T 10-12
 W, 1:00-4

Course Description: Explores the history of North American seafaring from the pre-Columbian era through the twentieth century.

Goals: The primary goal of this course is to situate North American seafaring within a larger framework of an Atlantic World system, and to emphasize the key role that maritime history played in the economic and social development of the United States.

Topics: Changes in technology, gender, race, shipwreck, economics, exploration and colonization.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the development, methods, and debates concerning North American seafaring.
- Apply critical thinking and writing skills through class discussions, presentations and a final research paper.
- Acquire familiarity with secondary and primary sources and be able to discuss each within larger historiographical debates.

Texts:

Margaret Creighton, *Iron Men and Wooden Women*, John Hopkins Press, 0801851602

Nathaniel Philbrick, *In The Heart of the Sea*, Penguin, 2001. 978-0141001821

Paul Gilje, *Liberty on the Waterfront*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007, 978-0812219937

Mark Kurlansky, *Cod: The Biography of a Fish that Changed the World*, Penguin, 1998, 978-0140275018

Dava Sobel, *The Illustrated Longitude*, Walker and Co., 2003, 978-0802775931

Taaffe, *Commanding Lincoln's Navy*, Naval Institute Press, 2009. 9781591148555

Recommended texts:

Benjamin Labaree, et al. *America and the Sea: a Maritime History*, Mystic Seaport Press, 1998. 978-0913372814

Grading / Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation: 100 points
Discussion leader/ Presentation: 50 points
Book Review: 50 points
Shipwreck/ Court Assignment: 50 points
Census Assignment: 100 points
Research paper: 100 points

Course Requirements:

Attendance is expected of everyone. You have one free “get of class.” I will deduct 10 points for each additional class you miss. You are expected to come to class prepared to talk or participate in various exercises.

Class participation includes leading a discussion one week. You will take one aspect of that week’s topic and make introductory remarks and initiate questions. I encourage you to make a PowerPoint presentation, but it is not necessary. Any sort of presentation, remarks, should last about 15 minutes. You will turn in a **5-8 page** paper concerning your presentation. Your presentation/paper will have to have a thesis statement, support, and a bibliography. There will be a sign up sheet the first day of class.

You have one major **book review**. The book reviews will be submitted to *Northern Mariner*. You must adhere to their guidelines. I will work with each of you to finalize and refine your reviews before submission. As soon as the books come in you will be given the guidelines as well as a due date.

Going to court. I will give you a theoretical case concerning a shipwreck that was brought before the admiralty courts. The class will be divided into various groups: crew, insurance company, salvage company, admiralty, etc... you then have your day in court. Each group will submit supporting documents, to me, in advance so that I can pass them out to the others. In addition, each student will submit a **3-5 page** “deposition,” with a bibliography. Basically, I want your take on the trial and to demonstrate the research you did to prepare for your role in this case.

Census Records. You will examine one set of census records concerning maritime related topics and write a short, **8-10 page** paper on information gleaned from a census taken in Pensacola. There are several different ways you can go with this type of assignment so it is up to you to find a direction. You will need to use other primary and secondary sources to support your argument but you must use one of the censuses taken in Pensacola between 1850-1900. There are copies in the library and online sources at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfgs/escambiacountyfl/index.htm>

Research Paper: Each of you will write a short research paper, **15-18 pages** on any topic concerning American maritime history. You should have primary and secondary sources, use Turabian format, etc... This research cannot be the same as the research you did for your census record but could be similar.

Expectations for Academic Conduct/Plagiarism Policy:

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.

From the Student Life Handbook, page 46.

See uwf.edu/cas/aasr/Plagiarism.doc for further information

Departmental Academic Standards:

See uwf.edu/history/studentinfo/index.com for further information

“The act of representing the ideas, words, creations, or work of another as one’s own.’ Plagiarism combines theft and fraud, and the penalty is correspondingly severe: failure for the assignment, and in some cases, for the entire course. As the instructor’s discretion, she/he may recommend the student be suspended from the university. Ignorance of the rules about plagiarism is no excuse for it, and carelessness is just as bad as purposeful violation. Students who have plagiarized have cheated themselves out of the experience of being responsible members of the academic community and have cheated their classmates by pretending to contribute original ideas.”

"We shall tolerate no cheating on examinations and no plagiarism of written work. In the event that such behavior is documented, the instructor will assign that student an "F" for the course in which the offense occurred. The chairperson of the department and the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences will be notified concerning the specific nature of the offense. Where additional penalties seem just, the instructor and/or chairperson will refer the case to the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for further action as outlined in the rules of the Florida Administrative Code. Each student has the right to appeal the charge of cheating or plagiarism and the right to examine any materials in his/her files."

ASSISTANCE:

Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact the, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), 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: (All articles are available on JSTOR, unless otherwise indicated. I reserve the right to additional readings!)

August 27: No Class

September 3: No Class

September 10: Introductions, distribution of seminar topics, and discussion of papers. Begin to think about first assignments....

Article: Vickers, Daniel. “Beyond Jack Tar” and Hattendorf, “Maritime History Today”

Technology and Exploration.

Sobel, Dava. *Illustrated Longitude*

Article: Alison Sandman, Eric Ash. “Trading Expertise: Sebastian Cabot between Spain and England,”

September 17: Worlds Collide and Early Seafaring

Article: James McElroy. "Seafaring in Seventeenth Century New England."

Article: Julie Sievers, Drowned Pens and Shaking Hands: Sea Providence Narratives in Seventeenth Century New England."

Article: Michael Jarvis, "Maritime Masters and Seafaring Slaves in Bermuda, 1680-1783"

Student presentations:, Early explorers (not covered in previous week, French and English),

September 24: Economics

Kalansky, *Cod*.

Article: Ostrander, Gilmer. "The Making of the Triangular Trade Myth,"

Article: Jeffrey, Bolster, "Opportunities in Marine Environmental History,"

Student Presentations: modern fishing communities, whaling (early, not Essex), other maritime industries, environment, etc...

October 1: Sailors

Article: Lemisch, Jesse. "Jack Tar in the Streets"

Article: Newman, Simon. "Reading the Bodies of American Sailors"

Gilje, Paul. *Liberty on the Waterfront*

Student Presentations: waterfront communities, Rediker's work, mutinies, punishments, etc....

October 8: Pirates

Article: Rediker, Marcus. "Under the Banner of King Death"

Reserve: Crystal Williams. "Nascent Socialists or Resourceful Criminals?"(I will supply)

Creighton and Norling: "Liberty Beneath the Jolly Roger" in *Iron Men, Wooden Women*

Student Presentations: pirate articles, specific pirates (not anne bonny/mary read)

October 15: Gender

Article: "Boats Are for Boys: Queering Maritime Archaeology"

Creighton and Norling: *Iron Men, Wooden Women*, Chapters 2-6, 8.

Student presentations: historical women at sea, women left behind, views of sailors, etc..

October 22 : African-American Sailors

Creighton and Norling, Chapter 7, *Iron Men, Wooden Women*

Article: Ira Berlin "From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African-American Society in Mainland North America."

Article: Charles Foy "Seeking Freedom in the Atlantic World" ONLINE DATABASE, Humanities Full Text (Wilson Web)

Student presentations: specific black sailors, 20th century, slave trade, etc...

October 29: Shipwrecks (from a historical perspective)

Narratives: to be passed out
Philbrick, *Heart of the Sea*

Student presentations: specific shipwrecks, maritime insurance, etc...

November 5: Transitions: Sail to Steam/ Wood to iron

Taafe, *Commanding Lincoln's Navy*

Student presentations: evolution of steam, 20th century navies, most anything modern, etc..

Turn in supporting documents for Trial

November 12: Got to Court, Court deposition due

November 19: Overview of Census data, turn in research

November 26: Modern Maritime history

Perfect Storm

December 3: No Class: Finish research

December 7: RESEARCH PAPER DUE