

AS100.473
The Indian Ocean: Economy, Society, Diaspora
Fall 2004

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Course Meets T @ 3 p.m.
Gilman Hall 14

Course Description

This course is a reading seminar in the history of the Indian Ocean from earliest times to the present with a focus on economy, society, and diaspora. The Indian Ocean is a vast sea linking a diversity of societies to its west, north, and south. These stretch from Australia, to Southeast Asia, to the Indian Subcontinent, to Persia and the Arabian Peninsula, to the east African coast, to Madagascar. The Indian Ocean is unique in its history of intensive indigenous shipping and commerce before the arrival of Europeans (1498), and in the coexistence of European and indigenous trade during the modern era. A region of tremendous importance globally, the Indian Ocean has been neglected as a unit of historical inquiry. This is now changing, and in the class we will read much recent research on the Indian Ocean.

The readings selected for the course represent broad and important themes in the history of the Indian Ocean. They are not exhaustive of Indian Ocean history. Readings represent temporal, geographic, and thematic diversity. They focus more on interactions between regions and powers, on trade, and on exchange than on internal histories of particular places in isolation. The important point is that the Indian Ocean is an ancient zone of intercommunication and cultural diversity, characteristics it retains into the present time. By the time you complete this course, you will be conversant with many of the important historical issues and debates in the history of the Indian Ocean. In other words, while pitched at a high level for advanced undergraduates, this is an introductory course and assumes no specific prior coursework.

It does, however, require strong reading and reasoning skills. Reading seminars are designed to introduce students to the literature in a particular field. In class we will discuss the readings and their relationship to each other; the professor will seldom lecture. Your avid reading of all the assigned materials and liberal participation in the class (by conversing intelligently) is essential to its success and to your progress.

Required Coursework

1. Attendance. You are expected to attend class. Missing class will adversely affect your grade (if you are near—not at—a dividing point between grades in figuring your final grade, I will assign poor attendees the lower grade).

2. Participation in course discussions. This is a seminar, not a lecture course. You are expected to read the assigned material and to reflect on it and be prepared to talk intelligently about it in the classroom. Speak up. (If you are near—not at—a dividing point between grades in figuring your final grade, I will assign the shy and diffident the lower grade).

3. Weekly informal commentaries on the assigned reading. You must bring written comments on each week's assigned reading (one page, single spaced is sufficient) with you to class. Your informal commentaries must briefly discuss the readings and raise intelligent questions for course participants to deliberate on. You must leave the professor a copy of your commentary when you leave at the end of class. (I will subtract 10 points for every paper that is not turned in to me at the end of class; no late informal commentaries accepted).

4. Map Quiz. You must correctly identify places, towns, bodies of water and other features on a map of the Indian Ocean. (100 points)

5. A project. The project will be a 15-20 page paper based upon your reading of an assigned set of material on some thematic dimension of Indian Ocean History. (450 points.)

6. A final examination. The final examination will be based on the assigned reading and course discussions. It will consist of a take-home examination in which you will answer questions with essays, well argued and structured. (450 points).

Map Quiz Items

Places

Cape of Good Hope

Natal

Mozambique

Swahili Coast

Zanzibar & Pemba

Tanzania

Kenya

Horn of Africa

Somalia

Ethiopia

Djibouti

Sudan

Nubia

Madagascar
Comoros
Seychelles
Mauritius
Réunion
Arabian Peninsula
Yemen
Hadramaut
Hijaz
Oman
Mesopotamia
Persia
Gujarat
Sri Lanka
Coromandel Coast
Malabar Coast
Southeast Asia
Java
Sumatra
Malay Peninsula

Bodies of Water

Mozambique Channel
Nile River
Red Sea
Persian Gulf
Gulf of Oman
Tigris River Euphrates River
Bay of Bengal
Arabian Sea
Bay of Cambay
South China Sea
Strait of Malacca
Indus River
Ganges River

Towns

Great Zimbabwe
Sofala
Kilwa
Mombasa
Mogadishu
Aden
Mecca
Jeddah
Medina

Muscat
 Basra
 Siraf
 Hormuz
 Cambay
 Surat
 Bombay (Mumbai)
 Goa
 Cochin
 Colombo
 Madras (Chennai)
 Calcutta
 Malacca
 Singapore
 Kuala Lumpur
 Jakarta
 Perth

Required Texts

(Students purchasing texts should read my notes at the <http://webct4.jhu.edu> discussion bulletin board for this class before purchasing)

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. ISBN = 0415214890
- Spear, Thomas T., and Derek Nurse. *The Swahili: Reconstructing the History and Language of an African Society, 800-1500*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1985. ISBN = 081221207X
- Bayly, Christopher Alan. *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990. ISBN = 0521386500
- Cooper, Frederick. *Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997. ISBN = 0435074199
- Anderson, Clare. *Convicts in the Indian Ocean: Transportation from South Asia to Mauritius, 1815-53*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000. ISBN = 0312227892

Course Schedule

September 7: Introduction

September 14: Early Trade & Diaspora

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 1-61. [Bookstore, amazon.co.uk (cheaper), print reserve, electronic reserve, photocopy from professor].

- Casson, Lionel. *The Periplus Maris Erythraei: Text with Introduction, Translation, and Commentary*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989. Pages 5-47. [Electronic reserve & print reserve].
- *The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, translated from the Greek and annotated by Wilfred H. Schoff*. New Delhi: Oriental Books Reprint Corporation, 1974. Pages 22-49. [Electronic reserve & print reserve]. Look at this and read portions, but it is not necessary to read the entire piece in depth.
- Bellwood, Peter S. "The Austronesian Dispersal and the Origin of Languages." *Scientific American* 265,1 (July 1991): 88-93. [Electronic reserve].

September 21: The Indian Ocean as a System

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 62-112. [Bookstore, amazon.co.uk (cheaper), print reserve, photocopy from professor].
- Abu-Lughod, Janet L. *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989. Pages 251-351. [Electronic reserve].

September 28: The Swahili & Ibn Battuta's Travels

- Spear, Thomas T., and Derek Nurse. *The Swahili: Reconstructing the History and Language of an African Society, 800-1500*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1985. [Bookstore, print reserve].
- Ross Dunn, *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986). Pages 1-12 & 107. [Electronic reserve].
- Ibn Battuta, *Travels in Asia and Africa, 1325-1354* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983). Pages 106-22. [Electronic reserve].

October 5: Seafaring, Settlements & Trade in a Diverse Ocean

- Roger Blench, "The Ethnographic Evidence for Long-Distance Contacts Between Oceania and East Africa," in Julian Reade, ed., *The Indian Ocean in Antiquity* (London: Kegan Paul International, 1996). Pages 417-438. [Electronic reserve; you may need to identify this reading by the editor's name, Julian Reade].
- Robert E. Dewar, "The Archaeology of the Early Settlement of Madagascar," in Julian Reade, ed., *The Indian Ocean in Antiquity* (London: Kegan Paul International, 1996). Pages 471-486. [Electronic reserve; you may need to identify this reading by the editor's name, Julian Reade].
- Levathes, Louise. *When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. Pages 20-55. [Print Reserve, and check also at WebCT course website].
- Finlay, Robert. "The Treasure-Ships of Zheng He: Chinese Maritime Imperialism in the Age of Discovery." *Terrae Incognitae* 23 (1991): 1-12. [Electronic reserve].

- Digby, Simon. "The Maritime Trade of India [1200-1500]." In *The Cambridge Economic History of India, vol. i, c. 1200-c.1750*, edited by Tapan Raychaudhuri and Irfan Habib. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1982. Pages 125-159. [Electronic reserve]
- Thomaz, Luis Filipe F.R. "Melaka and its Merchant Communities at the Turn of the Sixteenth Century." In *Asian Merchants and Businessmen in the Indian Ocean and the China Sea*, edited by Denys Lombard and Jean Aubin. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000. Pages 25-39. [Electronic reserve, you may have to locate this reading by the editors' names, Lombard & Aubin].

October 12: The Portuguese Seaborn Empire & Asia

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 113-158. [Bookstore, amazon.co.uk (cheaper), print reserve, photocopy from professor].
- Winius, George. "The 'Shadow Empire' of Goa in the Bay of Bengal." *Itinerario* 7 (1983): 83-101. [Electronic reserve].
- Chandra Richard de Silva, "Beyond the Cape: The Portuguese Encounter with the Peoples of South Asia," in Stuart B. Schwartz, ed., *Implicit Understandings: Observing, Reporting, and Reflecting on the Encounters between Europeans and Other Peoples in the Early Modern Era* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994). Pages 295-322. [Electronic reserve, you may have to locate this reading by the editor's name, Schwartz].
- Chaudhuri, K.N. "European Trade with India." In *The Cambridge Economic History of India, vol. i, c. 1200-c.1750*, edited by Tapan Raychaudhuri and Irfan Habib. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1982. Pages 382-407. [Electronic reserve].
- Das Gupta, Asin. "Indian Merchants and Trade in the Indian Ocean, c. 1500-1750." In *The Cambridge Economic History of India, vol. i, c. 1200-c.1750*, edited by Tapan Raychaudhuri and Irfan Habib. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1982. Pages 407-433. [Electronic reserve].

Recommended reading:

- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay, and Luis Filipe F.R. Thomaz. "Evolution of Empire: The Portuguese in the Indian Ocean During the Sixteenth Century." In *The Political Economy of Merchant Empires*, edited by James D. Tracy. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1991. Pages 298-331. [Electronic reserve, you may have to locate this reading by the editor's name, Tracy].
- "The Tail Wags the Dog: Sub-Imperialism and the Estado da Índia, 1570-1600," in Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. *Improvising Empire: Portuguese Trade and Settlement in the Bay of Bengal*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990. Pages 137-160. [Electronic reserve].

October 19: The Early Modern Indian Ocean

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 159-189. [Bookstore, amazon.co.uk (cheaper), print reserve, photocopy from professor].
- Prakash, Om. "European Corporate Enterprises and the Politics of Trade in India, 1600-1800." In *Politics and Trade in the Indian Ocean World: Essays in Honour of Ashin Das Gupta*, edited by Rudrangshu Mukherjee and Lakshmi Subramanian. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998. Pages 165-182 [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this reading by the editors' names, Mukherjee and Subramanian].
- Vink, Markus. "The World's Oldest Trade: Dutch Slavery and Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean in the Seventeenth Century." *Journal of World History* 14,2 (2003): 131-177. [Electronic reserve].
- Reid, Anthony. *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680. Volume One: The Lands Below the Winds*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1987. Pages 1-10. [Electronic reserve].
- "Early Southeast Asian Categorizations of Europeans," in Reid, Anthony. *Charting the Shape of Early Modern Southeast Asia*. Chiang Mai, Thailand: Silkworm Books, 1999. Pages 155-180. [Electronic reserve].
- Reid, Anthony. "Islamization and Christianization in Southeast Asia: The Critical Phase, 1550-1650." In *Southeast Asia in the Early Modern Era: Trade, Power, and Belief*, edited by Anthony Reid. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993. Pages 151-179. [Electronic reserve].

Recommended Reading

- Prakash, Om. "The Dutch East India Company in the Trade of the Indian Ocean." In *India and the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800*, edited by Ashin das Gupta and Michael Naylor Pearson. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987. Pages 185-200. [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this reading by the editors' names, das Gupta and Pearson].
- McPherson, Kenneth. "Trade and Traders in the Bay of Bengal: Fifteenth to Nineteenth Centuries." In *Politics and Trade in the Indian Ocean World: Essays in Honour of Ashin Das Gupta*, edited by Rudrangshu Mukherjee and Lakshmi Subramanian. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998. Pages 183-209. [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this material by the editors' names, Mukherjee and Subramanian].

October 26: India: Transition to British Colonialism

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 190-248. [Bookstore, amazon.co.uk (cheaper), print reserve, photocopy from professor].
- Bayly, Christopher Alan. *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990. Pages 1-105. [Bookstore, print reserve].

November 2: India: Transition to British Colonialism II & Emigration

- Bayly, Christopher Alan. *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990. Pages 106-206. [Bookstore, print reserve].
- North-Coombes, M.D. "Indentured Labour in the Sugar Industries of Natal and Mauritius." In *Essays on Indentured Indians in Natal*, edited by Surendra Bhana. Leeds, UK: Peepal Tree Press, 1988. Pages 12-87 [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this reading by the editor's name, Bhana].
- Pearson, Michael Naylor. "Indians in East Africa: The Early Modern Period." In *Politics and Trade in the Indian Ocean World: Essays in Honour of Ashin Das Gupta*, edited by Rudrangshu Mukherjee and Lakshmi Subramanian, 227-249. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998. [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this reading by the editors' names, Mukherjee and Subramanian].

November 9: African Diaspora

- Allen, Richard B. "The Mascarene Slave-Trade and Labour Migration in the Indian Ocean during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries." *Slavery and Abolition* 24,2 (2003): 33-50. [Electronic reserve].
- Worden, Nigel. "Diverging Histories: Slavery and its Aftermath in the Cape Colony and Mauritius." *South African Historical Journal* 27 (1992): 3-25. [Electronic reserve].
- Y. Talib, "The African Diaspora in Asia," in M. Elfasi, ed., *General History of Africa III: Africa from the Seventh to the Eleventh Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988). Pages 704-33. [Electronic Reserve, you may need to locate this reading by the editor's name, Elfasi].
- Pier M. Larson, "African Diasporas beyond the Atlantic," manuscript. [PDF at WebCT site for this course].
- Alpers, Edward A. "The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean: A Comparative Perspective." In *The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean*, edited by Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya and Richard Pankhurst, 19-50. Trenton, N.J.: Africa World Press, 2003. [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this reading by the editors' names, Jayasuriya and Pankhurst].

Recommended Reading:

- Alpers, Edward A. "Recollecting Africa: Diasporic Memory in the Indian Ocean World." *African Studies Review* 43,1 (2000): 83-99. [Electronic reserve]

November 16: Slavery

- Cooper, Frederick. *Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997. Pages 1-149. [Bookstore, print reserve]

November 23: Slavery

- Cooper, Frederick. *Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997. Pages 153-268. [Bookstore, print reserve]
- Larson, Pier M. "Reconsidering Trauma, Identity, and the African Diaspora: Enslavement and Historical Memory in Nineteenth-Century Highland

Madagascar." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 56,2 (1999): Pages 335-362. [Electronic reserve].

November 30: Indian Convict Labor

- Anderson, Clare. *Convicts in the Indian Ocean: Transportation from South Asia to Mauritius, 1815-53*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000. [Bookstore, print reserve, photocopy from professor]

December 7: Theory, Modern Politics & Security

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 249-288. [Bookstore, amazon.co.uk (cheaper), print reserve, photocopy from professor].
- Fernández-Armesto, Felipe. "The Indian Ocean in World History." In *Vasco da Gama and the Linking of Europe and Asia*, edited by Anthony Disney and Emily Booth, 11-29. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000. [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this material by the editors' names, Disney and Booth].
- Rao, P. V. "Introduction." In *India and Indian Ocean: In the Twilight of the Millennium. Essays in Honour of Professor Satish Chandra*, edited by P. V. Rao. Hyderabad and New Delhi: Centre for Indian Ocean Studies and South Asian Publishers, 2003. Pages 1-35. [Electronic reserve, you may need to locate this material by the editor's name, Rao].
- Bose, Sugata. "Space and Time on the Indian Ocean Rim: Theory and History." In *Modernity and Culture: From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean*, edited by Leila Tarazi Fawaz and C.A. Bayly. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002. Pages 365-388. [Electronic reserve, you may need to identify this reading material by the editors' names, Fawaz and Bayly].

Recommended Reading

- Kearney, Milo. *The Indian Ocean in World History*. London: Routledge, 2004. Pages 137-177. [Print reserve].