

**ASI00.473**  
**The Indian Ocean: Economy, Society, Diaspora**  
**Spring 2009**

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**Course Meets T 1:30-3:50**  
**Room: Dunning Hall 305**  
**MSEL Reserves Password: LAR473**

**Course Description**

This course is a reading seminar in the history of the Indian Ocean from earliest times to the present. Its focus is on economy, society, diaspora, and national identities. The Indian Ocean is a vast sea linking diverse 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 and the smaller Indian Ocean Islands. The Indian Ocean differs from the Atlantic and Pacific in its history of extensive shipping, commerce, and movement of people and ideas more than a millennium before the arrival of Europeans (1498), and in its mixture and coexistence of European and indigenous Indian Ocean influences in culture, commerce, politics, literature, and other domains during the early modern and modern eras. A region of tremendous importance globally, the Indian Ocean has been relatively neglected as a unit of historical inquiry in the western academy. This is now changing, and in the class we will read much recent research on the region.

The readings selected for the course represent important themes emerging in scholarly research into the history of the Indian Ocean. Readings have been selected for temporal, geographic, and thematic diversity. They focus more on interactions between specific areas and powers, on trade, and on exchange of ideas than on internal histories of particular places in isolation (e.g. Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the islands individually considered). 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. 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 students who have missed classes 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 students with poor oral participation the lower grade).

3. Weekly informal commentaries on the assigned reading. You must bring written comments on each week's assigned reading with you to class (one page, single spaced is sufficient). Your informal commentaries must briefly discuss the readings and raise intelligent questions for course participants to deliberate on. You must hand 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 to be provided by February 3. The quiz will be given in class on February 10 (100 points).

5. A 5-page book review from a selection of books to be provided by the professor. The book review is due in class on April 21 (300 points).

6. Class presentation and historiographical paper. Each student must choose a different week of assigned readings and start off the class with a 15-20 minute presentation on the argument and significance of the material. This must be followed a week later by a 7-10 page paper turned in to the professor that discusses the materials on which you gave your presentation. In both your presentation and your paper you should ask the following kinds of questions: What is the reading about? What are the authors' various interests and concerns? What do they argue? Does the reading hold together around a single topic? Why or why not? Do you agree with the authors' positions? What is missing? Questionable? What additional research might be helpful to answering questions raised? (300 points, combined oral presentation and paper)

7. 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 one of two questions with a 7-page essay, well argued and structured. You will be provided the questions April 28 and the paper is due to the professor by noon on May 11 (300 points).

**All three papers must be times new roman font, 12 point, with no more than 1-inch margins.**

**Required Books (Available at B&N Homewood Bookstore:**

Bose, Sugata. *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire*.  
Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006.

Engseng Ho. *The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean*. Berkeley,  
Calif.: University of California Press, 2006.

**Course Schedule:**

**January 27: First Day of Class: Professor Larson in Madagascar** (You may reach him by email).

Please read the syllabus carefully. Then read the assigned reading for February 3 (available in MSEL reserves, both electronic and print), write your informal commentary (see assignment #3 above), and come to class prepared to discuss the readings. The full syllabus will be available on February 3 so you can choose the week on which you would like to give your oral presentation and on whose readings you will write your historiographical paper. If any of you want to choose the weeks of February 3 or 10 for this assignment, please email the professor now for approval (good idea to get your job done early). Only one student per week, so if the week you request is already spoken for, you will need to find a different week. If you are finding this syllabus online before January 27, there is no need to come to the January 27 class meeting as the professor will not be there and someone else will be in the classroom only to make sure students have access to the syllabus.

**February 3: Oceans as History**

Bentley, Jerry H. "Sea and Ocean Basins as Frameworks of Historical Analysis."  
*Geographical Review* 89,2 (April 1999): 215-224.

Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 1-26.

Gilbert, Erik. "Coastal East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean: Long-Distance Trade, Empire, Migration, and Regional Unity, 1750-1970." *The History Teacher* 36,1 (November 2002): 7-34.

**February 10: Ancient Human, Cultural, Linguistic Dispersals**

Manning, Patrick. "Homo Sapiens Populates the Earth: A Provisional Synthesis, Privileging Linguistic Evidence." *Journal of World History* 17,2 (2006): 115-158.

Mitchell, Peter. *African Connections: An Archaeological Perspective on Africa and the Wider World*. New York: Altamira Press, 2005. Pages 99-133.

Bellwood, Peter S. "The Austronesian Dispersal and the Origin of Languages." *Scientific American* 265,1 (July 1991): 88-93.

- 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.
- Wright, Henry Tutwiler, and Jean-Aimé Rakotoarisoa. "The Rise of Malagasy Societies: New Developments in the Archaeology of Madagascar." In *The Natural History of Madagascar*, edited by Steven M. Goodman and Jonathan P. Benstead, 112-119. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

### **February 17: Early Trading Networks**

- Casson, Lionel, ed. *The Periplus Maris Erythraei: Text with Introduction, Translation, and Commentary*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989. Pages 5-47.
- Sidebotham, S. E., and W. Z. Wendrich. "Berenike: Roman Egypt's Maritime Gateway to Arabia and India." *Egyptian Archaeology* 8 (1996): 15-18.
- Roy, Mihir. "India at the Crossroads in the Indian Ocean." In *Mariners, Merchants, and Oceans: Studies in Maritime History*, edited by Kuzhippalli Skaria Mathew, 469-488. New Delhi: Manohar Publishers, 1995.
- Hourani, George F. *Arab Seafaring in the Indian Ocean in Ancient and Early Medieval Times*. Revised and expanded by John Carswell. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995. Pages 3-84.

### **February 24: Islam and the Ocean**

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 62-112.
- Gilbert, Erik, and Jonathan T. Reynolds. *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2008. Pages 117-135 (ignore the photo essay.)
- Levtzion, Nehemia, and Randall L. Pouwels, eds. *The History of Islam in Africa*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2000. Pages 37-59 & 251-271.
- Ibn Battuta, *Travels in Asia and Africa, 1325-1354* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983). Pages. 106-122, 228-281.

### **March 3: Europeans and Exchange**

- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Indian Ocean*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 113-189.
- Gilbert, Erik, and Jonathan T. Reynolds. *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2008. Pages 223-243.
- Winius, George. "The 'Shadow Empire' of Goa in the Bay of Bengal." *Itinerario* 7 (1983): 83-101.
- Worden, Nigel. "Cape Town and Port Louis in the Eighteenth Century." In *The Indian Ocean Rim: Southern Africa and Regional Co-operation*, edited by Gwyn Campbell, 42-53. London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003.

### **March 10: Interconnections of Dutch Empire**

Ward, Kerry Ruth. *Networks of Empire: Forced Migration in the Dutch East India Company*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2008. (Selections TBA).

### **March 24: Hadhrami Diaspora**

Ho, Engseong. *The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2006. (Selections TBA).

### **March 31: The African Diaspora: Perspectives**

Larson, Pier M. "African Diasporas and the Atlantic." In *The Atlantic in Global History, 1500-2000*, edited by Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra and Eric R. Seeman, 129-147. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2007.

Larson, Pier M. "Horrid Journeying: Narratives of Enslavement and the Global African Diaspora." *Journal of World History* 19,4 (December 2008): 431-464.

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.

Campbell, Gwyn. "The African-Asian Diaspora: Myth or Reality?" *African and Asian Studies* 5,3-4 (2006): 305-324.

### **April 7: Slavery in the Indian Ocean**

Chatterjee, Indrani, and Richard M. Eaton, eds. *Slavery & South Asian History*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2006. Pages 1-16, 44-62, 83-114.

Sheriff, Abdul. "The Slave Trade and its Fallout in the Persian Gulf." In *Abolition and its Aftermath in the Indian Ocean, Africa and Asia*, edited by Gwyn Campbell, 103-119. London: Frank Cass, 2004.

Hutson, Alaine. "Enslavement and Manumission in Saudi Arabia, 1926-38." *Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies* 11,1 (Spring 2002): 49-70.

Worden, Nigel. "Diverging Histories: Slavery and its Aftermath in the Cape Colony and Mauritius." *South African Historical Journal* 27 (1992): 3-25.

### **April 14: Islands and Creolization**

Vaughan, Megan. *Creating the Creole Island: Slavery in Eighteenth-Century Mauritius*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005. Pages TBA.

Haring, Lee. "African Folktales and Creolization in the Indian Ocean Islands." *Research in African Literatures* 33,3 (2002): 182-199.

Larson, Pier M. "Malagasy at the Mascarenes: Publishing in a Servile Vernacular before the French Revolution." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49,3 (July 2007): 582-610.

Larson, Pier M. "The Vernacular Life of the Street: Ratsitanina and Indian Ocean Créolité." *Slavery and Abolition* 29,3 (September 2008): 327-359.

### **April 21: Indenture, Travel, and Identity**

- Tinker, Hugh. "Into Servitude: Indian Labour in the Sugar Industry, 1833-1970." In *International Labour Migration: Historical Perspectives*, edited by Shula Marks and Peter Richardson, 76-89. London: Published for the Institute of Commonwealth Studies by Maurice Temple Smith, 1984.
- 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, 12-87. Leeds, UK: Peepal Tree Press, 1988.
- Diederich, Mathias. "Indonesians in Saudi Arabia: Religious and Economic Connections." In *Transnational Connections and the Arab Gulf*, edited by Madawi Al-Rasheed, 128-146. London: Routledge, 2005.
- O'Brien, Susan. "Pilgrimage, Power, and Identity: The Role of the Hajj in the Lives of Nigerian Hausa Bori Adepts." *Africa Today* 46,3-4 (Summer/Autumn 1999): 11-40.

### **April 28: Nationalism and South Asian Diaspora**

- Bose, Sugata. *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006.

### **A Selection of Books for your Book Review**

(Note that edited collections of essays will be more difficult to read than single-authored books).

- Allen, Richard B. *Slaves, Freedmen and Indentured Laborers in Colonial Mauritius*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Al-Rasheed, Madawi, ed. *Transnational Connections and the Arab Gulf*. London: Routledge, 2005.
- Anderson, Clare. *Convicts in the Indian Ocean: Transportation from South Asia to Mauritius, 1815-53*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000.
- Arasaratnam, Sinnappah. *Maritime India in the Seventeenth Century*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Bang, Anne K. *Sufis and Scholars of the Sea: Family Networks in East Africa, 1860-1925*. London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003.
- Barendse, R.J. *The Arabian Seas: The Indian Ocean World of the Seventeenth Century*. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2002.
- Boxberger, Linda. *On the Edge of Empire: Hadhramawt, Emigration, and the Indian Ocean, 1880s-1930s*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002.
- Campbell, Gwyn, ed. *Abolition and its Aftermath in the Indian Ocean, Africa and Asia*. London: Frank Cass, 2004.
- Campbell, Gwyn, ed. *The Structure of Slavery in Indian Ocean, Africa, and Asia*. London: Frank Cass, 2004.
- Carter, Marina. *Servants, Sirdars and Settlers: Indians in Mauritius, 1834-1874*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995.

- Chatterjee, Indrani, and Richard M. Eaton. eds. *Slavery and South Asian History*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2006.
- Chaudhuri, K.N. *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- Chaudhury, Sushil, and Michel Morineau, eds. *Merchants, Companies and Trade: Europe and Asia in the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Christopher, Emma, Cassandra Pybus, and Marcus Rediker, eds. *Many Middle Passages: Forced Migration and the Making of the Modern World*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2007.
- Clarence-Smith, William Gervase. *Islam and the Abolition of Slavery*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Cooper, Frederick. *Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977. (also Cooper, Frederick. *Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa*. reprint edn. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997.)
- Das Gupta, Ashin. *The World of the Indian Ocean Merchant, 1500-1800: Collected Essays of Ashin Das Gupta*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Dash, Mike. *Batavia's Graveyard: The True Story of the Mad Heretic who Led History's Bloodiest Mutiny*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2002.
- Felicitas Becker, *Becoming Muslim in Mainland Tanzania, 1890-2000* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Ghosh, Amitav. *In an Antique Land: History in the Guise of a Traveler's Tale*. New York: Vintage Books, 1992.
- Hawley, John C. ed. *India in Africa and Africa in India: Indian Ocean Cosmopolitans*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2008.
- Hood, Jean. *Marked for Misfortune: An Epic Tale of Shipwreck, Human Endeavour and Rescue in the Age of Sail*. London: Conway Maritime, 2003.
- Hopper, Matthew S. "The African Presence in Arabia: Slavery, the World Economy, and the African Diaspora in Eastern Arabia, 1840-1940." Ph.D. Thesis, Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, 2006.
- Jasanoff, Maya. *Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East, 1750-1850*. New York: Vintage Books, 2005.
- Jayasuriya, Shihan de S., and Richard Pankhurst, eds. *The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2003.
- Kling, Blair B., and Michael Naylor Pearson. eds. *The Age of Partnership: Europeans in Asia Before Domination*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1979.
- Kresse, Kai. *Philosophising in Mombasa: Knowledge, Islam, and Intellectual Practise on the Swahili Coast*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007.
- Larson, Pier M. *History and Memory in the Age of Enslavement: Becoming Merina in Highland Madagascar, 1770-1822*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2000.
- Levathes, Louise. *When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Lombard, Denys, and Jean Aubin, eds. *Asian Merchants and Businessmen in the Indian Ocean and the China Sea*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000.

- Machado, Pedro. "Gujarati Indian Merchant Networks in Mozambique, 1777-c. 1830." Ph.D. Thesis, Department of History, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 2005.
- Metcalf, Thomas R. *Imperial Connections: India in the Indian Ocean Arena, 1860-1920*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2008.
- McPherson, Kenneth. *The Indian Ocean: A History of People and the Sea*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Mirzai, Behnaz A. "Slavery, the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and the Emancipation of Slaves in Iran (1828-1928)." Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of History, York University, North York, 2004.
- Nicolini, Beatrice. *Makran, Oman and Zanzibar: Three-Terminal Cultural Corridor in the Western Indian Ocean, 1799-1856*. Translated by Penelope-Jane Watson. Leiden: Brill, 2004.
- Parkin, David, and Ruth Barnes, eds. *Ships and the Development of Maritime Technology in the Indian Ocean*. London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2002.
- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *Pilgrimage to Mecca: The Indian Experience, 1500-1800*. Princeton, N.J.: Markus Wiener Publishers, 1996.
- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *Pious Passengers: The Hajj in Earlier Times*. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1994.
- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *Port Cities and Intruders: The Swahili Coast, India, and Portugal in the Early Modern Era*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.
- Pearson, Michael Naylor. *The Portuguese in India*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1987.
- Popovic, Alexandre. *The Revolt of African Slaves in Iraq in the 3rd/9th Century*. Translated by Léon King. Princeton, N.J.: Markus Wiener, 1999.
- Prakash, Om. *The Dutch East India Company and the Economy of Bengal, 1630-1720*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1985.
- Prestholdt, Jeremy. *Domesticating the World: African Consumerism and the Genealogies of Globalization*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2008.
- Reade, Julian, ed. *The Indian Ocean in Antiquity*. London: Kegan Paul International in association with the British Museum, 1996.
- Risso, Patricia. *Merchants of Faith: Muslim Commerce and Culture in the Indian Ocean*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1995.
- Simpson, Edward. *Struggling with History: Islam and Cosmopolitanism in the Western Indian Ocean*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.
- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. *Improvising Empire: Portuguese Trade and Settlement in the Bay of Bengal*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. *The Career and Legend of Vasco da Gama*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. *The Political Economy of Commerce: Southern India, 1500-1650*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. *The Portuguese Empire in Asia, 1500-1700: A Political and Economic History*. London: Longman, 1993.
- Subramanian, Lakshmi, ed. *The French East India Company and the Trade of the Indian Ocean: A Collection of Essays by Indrani Ray*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 1999.



- Vaughan, Megan. *Creating the Creole Island: Slavery in Eighteenth-Century Mauritius*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005.
- Wong Hee Kam, Édith. *La diaspora chinoise aux Mascareignes: le cas de La Réunion*. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1996.
- Yap, Melanie, and Dianne Leong Man. *Colour, Confusion, and Concessions: The History of the Chinese in South Africa*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1996.
- Zimba, Benigna, Edward A. Alpers, and Allen F. Isaacman, eds. *Slave Routes and Oral Tradition in Southeastern Africa*. Maputo: Filsom Entertainment, Lda., 2005.