

# **History of the Indian Ocean World**

**HIST 2312A**

**Fall 2017**

**Tuesday, 11:35-2:25 pm**

**Room No: LA A720**

**Precludes additional credit for HIST 3716**

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## **I. Course Description :**

The Indian Ocean, as one of oldest maritime highways in the history of humanity, connected diverse cultures, regions, religions, languages and facilitated the exchange of goods and commodities. As an epicentre of global economy in pre-modern world it gave rise to trading networks and political empires. While questioning the conventional Eurocentric notions of the non-Western world, this course retraces the pre-modern history of the Indian Ocean as an unparalleled vibrant cultural and economic zone in which Muslims, Hindus, Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians (Parsis) lived and thrived together. The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the non-Western antecedents of modern global history and critically evaluate the current phase of globalization. The course relies on a variety of sources and texts to add depth and explore the nuances of lives in pre-modern Indian Ocean world. Jewish and Arab merchants, Muslim travellers and emperors and African soldiers and slaves come alive in the accounts we shall read and engage with in the classroom and outside.

## **II. Required Texts:**

*(Books are available at **Carleton University Book Store**, University Centre)*

1. M.N. Pearson, *The Indian Ocean (Seas in History)*, Routledge, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0415445382.

2. Omar Ali, *Malik Amber: Power and Slavery Across Indian Ocean*, Oxford University Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-19-026978-4.
3. Stewart Gordon, *When Asia Was the World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors and Monks Who created the "Riches of the East"*, Da Capo Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0306817397

### **Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):**

- a) **Historical Knowledge:** It provides an in depth understanding of historical and geographical significance of the Indian Ocean world as a gateway for trade, religious and cultural exchanges.
- b) **Presentation Skills:** Communicate complex historical ideas and developments in clear written and oral format using academic sources and arguments.
- c) **Research Skills:** Exploring complex historical issues, identifying theories and historical evidence to distinguish between opinion and evidence based argument and interpret to formulate an argument and conclusion. Thus, identifying the sources, locating them and citing appropriately to support research ideas and arguments.
- d) **Critical Thinking:** By challenging student's Eurocentric understanding of the making of modern world it provides a cultural competence to understand and critically engage with non-Western world and its cultures.

### **Digital Resources on Indian Ocean History:**

1. <http://www.indianoceanhistory.org/>
2. <http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/r/360/whm.html>
3. <http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/8.1/maunu.html>
4. <http://indianoceanworldcentre.com/history>

5. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1436/1436-h/1436-h.htm>

### **Audio-Visual Resources:**

1. Michael Wood, The Story of India, Documentary Film.
2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WcDfO7MPu8> (Film on Ibn Battutah).

### **III. Course Calendar:**

#### **Week 1 (September 12): Introduction History and Water**

Day 1 (Tuesday, September 12): Introduction & Read *Indian Ocean*, pp.1-26.

#### **Week 2 (September 19): History around Oceans**

Day 2 (Tuesday, September 19): Read *Indian Ocean*, pp.27- 61.

#### **Week 3 (September 26): Islam and Indian Ocean**

Day 3 (Tuesday, September 26): Read *Indian Ocean*, pp.62-112 &  
Read *When Asia was the World*, pp. 21-38.

#### **(Map Test)**

#### **Week 4 (October 3): Chinese Story in Indian Ocean**

Day 4 (Tuesday, October 3): Read *When Asia was the World*, pp. 1-20 &  
Read *When Asia was the World*, pp.117-135.

#### **Week 5 (October 10): Physicians and Philosophers of Indian Ocean**

Day 5 (Tuesday, October 10): Read *When Asia was the World*, pp. 39-56 &  
Read *When Asia was the World*, pp. 157-175.

#### **Week 6 (October 17): India and Indian Ocean**

Day 6 (Tuesday, October 17): Read *When Asia was the World*, pp.75-95 &  
Read *When Asia was the World*, pp. 137- 156.

#### **Week 7 (October 23-27): Winter Break No Classes**

**Week 8 (October 31): African Slave and the Making of South Indian Kingdoms**

Day 8 (Tuesday, October 31): Read *Malik Amber: Power and Slavery Across the Indian Ocean*, pp. 1-53

**(In Class Test)**

**Week 9 (November 7): Slaves as Kings and Diplomats**

Day 9 (Tuesday, November 7): Read *Malik Amber: Power and Slavery Across the Indian Ocean*, pp. 54-108.

**Week 10 (November 14): Religion in Indian Ocean**

Day 10 (Tuesday, November 14): Presentations.

**Week 11 (November 21): Spices and Food in Indian Ocean**

Day 11 (Tuesday, November 21): Presentations

**Week 12 (November 28): Science, Technology and Medicine in Indian Ocean**

Day 12 (Tuesday, November 28): Presentations

**Week 13 (December 5): Last Day of Classes and End of the Term**

Day 13 (Tuesday, December 5): Conclusion and Feedback

**IV. Evaluation, Course Requirements and Policies:**

**Class Etiquette:**

In class you are expected to work and learn in cooperation with your fellow students. Listening and engaging respectfully with each other is an imperative during discussions as you are here to learn from the instructor and others in the class. Everyone is required to bring text books to class and browse the useful websites provided on the course bulletin.

***No cell phones or internet browsing in the classroom. Must come with textbook and copy of the syllabus.***

**Assessment:**

Attendance and Participation (10%): (10+10) = 20% of Overall Grade

Weekly Response Papers: 30%

Research Paper: 20% of Overall Grade

In Class Presentation: 10% of Overall Grade

In Class Test: 10% of Overall Grade

Map Quiz: 10% of Overall Grade

**Late Policy:**

All assignments, tests and course work are mandatory. Unless there is a documented reason (e.g. a doctor's note) or a pressing need *and* the student has promptly communicated with me, there will be a penalty for late submission. Late submissions will incur a penalty of half a grade per day. For example, a B+ grade essay will receive B grade for being one day late and C+ when it is late by two days.

**Attendance and Participation (10%): (10+10) = 20% of Overall Grade:**

You are required to come to class on time. Any student coming in fifteen minutes late (or leaving before the class ends) will be marked absent for the day. Along with the presence in class students are required to actively engage in classroom, particularly opening discussion on class readings and on the topics related to the course, i.e. critical observation of current global processes which might connect to the past events and happenings during the high tide of European imperialisms. Enthusiasm coupled with active involvement inside and outside the classroom makes the process of learning meaningful for everyone. Therefore, participation also means involvement in critical thinking and communicating with the peers and teacher. I personally encourage students to come forward to initiate discussions.

**Class Test: 10% of Overall Grade:**

There will be a class test on the readings discussed in class. Format of the exam will be decided in consultation with the students. It will be held on October 31, 2017.

**Map Quiz: 10% of Overall Grade:**

Each student is expected to look at the historical maps of the Indian Ocean world. An excellent online source is the University of Texas, Austin Library webpage. These maps are wonderful in terms of giving detailed information about geography, colonization and political boundaries. Therefore every student must view the maps while reading the course material. Map quiz will be on September 26, 2017.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/>

[http://www.emersonkent.com/map\\_archive/imperialism\\_asia\\_map.htm](http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/imperialism_asia_map.htm)

**Research Paper cum Class Presentation: 30% of Overall Grade:**

As a history student, you are expected to write a research paper (using historical archives and primary documents) and critically read the sources leading to a coherent thesis and argument. The research paper should be on the history and global circulation of humans, animals (religion, political empires, knowledge and science) and spices/ foods such as pepper, turmeric, clove, cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg coffee, tea, sugar, cotton, cinchona burk or any others. You write the presentation and develop into a broader research paper. Third week of the classes we will divide the class into groups and assign topics. Therefore, reading class material (including the study of maps) is essential for writing the paper. The research essay should be around 10 pages and follow the Chicago Manual style. On the day of presentation, you should hand over a first draft of research essay. Final paper is due on the last of class, i.e. December 5, 2017.

**Response paper on Class Reading: 30% of Overall Grade:**

The response paper is a crucial element of the course as it ensures all the students read the assigned readings. It is mandatory to post a five-hundred-words response on CuLearn every week due by Tuesday (12 midnight). I will use these response papers to initiate discussions and they will also be graded. Even if you are unable to attend class due to unavoidable circumstance you must post the response paper.

**REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HISTORY COURSES**

**COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED**

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

## **PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

## **COURSE SHARING WEBSITES and COPYRIGHT**

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## **STATEMENT ON CLASS CONDUCT**

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and
- preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

**Carleton University Equity Services states that “every member of the University community has a right to study, work and live in a safe environment free of discrimination or harassment”.** [In May of 2001 Carleton University’s Senate and Board of Governors approved the Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures. The establishment of these policies and procedures was the culmination of the efforts of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Rights and a Human Rights Implementation Committee.]

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)    B = 73-76 (8)    C - = 60-62 (4)

A = 85-89 (11)    B - = 70-72 (7)    D+ = 57-59 (3)

A - = 80-84 (10)    C+ = 67-69 (6)    D = 53-56 (2)

B+ = 77-79 (9)    C = 63-66 (5)    D - = 50-52 (1)

F Failure. No academic credit WDN Withdrawn from the course

ABS Absent from the final examination

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

FND Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## **WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY**

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is December 8, 2017. Last day to withdraw from full-year courses is April 11, 2018.

## **REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>



**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### **PETITIONS TO DEFER**

Students unable to complete a final term paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

### **ADDRESSES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)**

- Department of History (2828) 400 PA
- Registrar's Office (3500) 300 Tory
- Academic Advising Centre (7850) 302 Tory
- Paul Menton Centre (6608) 500 Unicentre
- Centre for Student Academic Support – Study Skills, Writing Tutorials, Bounce Back (3822) 4th fl Library

### **Application for Graduation Deadlines**

- Spring Graduation (June): March 1
- Fall Graduation (November): September 1
- Winter Graduation (February): December 1