

Spring, 2011

## **Post-Medieval Seafaring Anthropology 629**

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Crisman  
Office: 131b Anthropology, ☎ 845-6696  
Office hours: Wednesday, 1-5 or by appointment

This course examines archaeological and historical sources to chronicle and explain the development of shipbuilding, seafaring practices, world exploration, waterborne trade and economic systems, and naval warfare in Europe and around the world (except the Americas) from the fifteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century. Archaeological studies of shipwrecks, ships' equipment, and cargoes provide a focal point for investigating change and continuity in the maritime sphere over five centuries.

Prerequisites: Anth 615 and 616 or instructor approval.

### **Course Schedule:**

- Week 1. Introduction to Course.**  
(Jan. 18)
1. Review of course goals and discussion of seminar presentations.
  2. Discussion of term paper research, writing, and editing.
  3. Europe at the End of the Medieval Era [Crisman].
- Week 2. Transitions in the Technology of Ships and Weaponry.**  
(Jan. 25)
- Seminar topics:
1. A peek at 15<sup>th</sup>-Century Shipping: the Aveiro A Wreck and the Newport Ship.
  2. The Villefranche Wreck.
  3. A 16<sup>th</sup>-Century Trio: Cattewater, Studland Bay, and 'Kravel' Wrecks.
  4. Gunpowder Weapons in Late Medieval Europe [Crisman].
- Week 3. The Naval Revolution Incarnate: Henry VIII's *Mary Rose*.**  
(Feb.1)
- Seminar topics:
1. *Mary Rose*: History and Construction Features.
  2. Early 16<sup>th</sup> Century Ship Rigs and the Rigging of *Mary Rose*.
  3. The Cannon and Small Arms of *Mary Rose*.
  4. Shipboard Organization and Life on *Mary Rose* as Revealed by the Artifacts.
- Week 4. The Discovery of the World in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.**  
(Feb. 8)
- Seminar topics:
1. The Portuguese Quest for Asia [Crisman].
  2. The Circumnavigation of Magellan and Pigafetta.
  3. The World Encompassed: Drake and the Explorers of Tudor England.
  4. Hakluyt's *Voyages*.

- Week 5.** **Portugal's Asian Empire.**  
(Feb. 15) Seminar topics:
1. "The Tragic History of the Sea": Seafaring Life on the *Carreira da India*.
  2. The Pepper Wreck: *Nossa Senhora dos Mártires*.
  3. *Santo António de Tanna*: History, Construction, and Artifacts.
  4. Research in the Azores, Portugal's Atlantic Islands [Instructor].
- Week 6.** **1588: The Year of the Spanish Armada.**  
(Feb. 22) Seminar topics:
1. Philip II, Elizabeth I, and the Origins of the Armada [Crisman].
  2. The Composition of the Fleets.
  3. *Trinidad Valencera*.
  4. Other Armada Wrecks.
- Week 7.** **The Dutch East India Company.**  
(Mar. 1) Seminar topics:
1. Linschoten's *Itinerario* and the Anglo-Dutch Invasion of Asia [Crisman].
  2. Early VOC Ships: *Mauritius* and *Batavia*.
  3. The Eighteenth-Century VOC Ship *Amsterdam*.
  4. Other VOC Shipwrecks: An Overview.
- Week 8.** **Seventeenth-century Naval Vessels.**  
(Mar. 8) Seminar topics:
1. The Anglo-Dutch Naval Wars [Crisman].
  2. The Short, Tragic Career and Modern Resurrection of Sweden's *Vasa*.
  3. Ships of England's Navy: The Duart Point Wreck [*Swan*] and *Dartmouth*.
  4. Yet Another Swedish Tragedy: *Kronan*.
- Week 9.** **Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Merchant Craft.**  
(Mar. 22) Seminar topics:
1. Merchant Craft of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries: An Overview [Crisman].
  2. The Early 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Ship Graveyard at Christianshavn, Denmark.
  3. Baltic Finds: The Alvsnabben and Jutholmen Wrecks.
  4. Dutch Losses in the Baltic: *Anna Maria*, *Vrouw Maria*, and the 'Ghost Wreck'.
- Week 10.** **Coastal and Inland Watercraft of Europe.**  
(Mar. 29) Seminar topics:
1. Lelystad Buertschip.
  2. Waterships.
  3. E14 and A71: Two Dutch Prams.
  4. The Steamer *Eric Nordewall*.

- Week 11. Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-century Royal Navy Ships.**  
(Apr. 5) Seminar topics:
1. Royal Navy Administration in the Eighteenth Century [Crisman].
  2. Big Warships Lost in Home Waters: *Sterling Castle*, *Maidstone* and *Invincible*.
  3. Small Warships Lost on Distant Missions: *Pandora*, *Sirius*, and *Swift*.
  4. Admiral Horatio Nelson's *Victory*.
- Week 12. The Transition to Iron and Steam.**  
(Apr. 12) Seminar topics:
1. The Nineteenth-Century Revolution in Maritime Technology [Crisman].
  2. The Glory and the Goodbye: Nineteenth-century Wooden Merchant Vessels.
  3. I.K. Brunel, the *Great Britain*, and the *Great Eastern*.
  4. The Extreme Clipper *Cutty Sark*.
- Week 14. Dreadnoughts and the Coming of the Great War.**  
(Apr. 19) Seminar topics:
1. The Revolution in Naval Technology: H.M.S. *Warrior* and U.S.S. *Olympia*
  2. Jackie Fisher's Dream Realized: H.M.S. *Dreadnought*.
  3. Clash of the Iron Behemoths: The Battle of Jutland.

**NOTE: A class field trip to the U.S. Battleship *Texas* is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 26.**

## Course Requirements

### 1. Seminar Presentations and Discussions (50% of final grade)

During the semester each student will choose several topics to research and present in class (the number of presentations you make will depend upon the size of the class). Presentations *must* be no more than one-half hour in length. Stay within this time limit. Please prepare and distribute a bibliography of the sources consulted for your seminar presentation (**Note: this is part of your presentation grade, so make sure 1) You prepare a bibliography; 2) It has your name on it; and 3) Your professor gets a copy**). Use of visual aids such as slides, photocopied handouts, Powerpoint™ projections, chalkboard illustrations, or interpretive dances is strongly encouraged.

Seminar presentations will be graded on the basis of their thoroughness, organization, and clarity, as well as their inclusion of illustrations (where appropriate) and the distribution of a bibliography of sources consulted in preparing the presentation.

### 2. Term Paper (50% of final grade)

In addition to the seminar presentations, each student will research and write a professional, publishable-quality term paper on some aspect of post-medieval seafaring. The first step, after selecting a topic and researching sources, will be to prepare a *four page* "term paper proposal"

modeled on a thesis proposal; in the proposal you will state the nature and importance of the question, discuss previous research and potential sources, outline your plan for analysis of the topic, and summarize the significance of the proposed research. A *separate* bibliography of primary and secondary sources that you intend to use in preparing the term paper must be included. The term paper proposal is due by **5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2011**.

The optimal length for a term paper is 20-25 pages of text (12-point font, double spaced), although papers of a greater or lesser length will be accepted (note: longer does not necessarily mean better!). The paper must adhere to the requirements and recommendations provided in my "Guidelines for Writing Your Term Paper" handout. The paper is to be submitted on or before **5 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2011**. Submitting your paper after this date *will result* in a lower grade.

My term paper grading criteria are as follows: ("A") research, analysis, writing, and citation are professional and with minimal editing the paper could be published as a journal article or book chapter; ("B") paper is good in most respects, but due to shortcomings in one or more areas would require significant editing before publication would be possible; ("C") paper is at lowest levels of acceptability, and would require major new research or re-writing to achieve publishable standards; ("D") paper falls below lowest levels of acceptability in research, analysis, writing, and citation; ("F") paper fails to meet all professional standards, or the professor has found evidence of plagiarism.

☞ **Please note:** Because I read term papers carefully, I read them slowly. It is possible that I may not be able to read your paper and grade it before the deadline to turn in Spring, 2011 grades (May 16); if this occurs you will receive a temporary "Incomplete" until the paper is graded and I submit a "Change of Grade" form. Do not be alarmed by an "Incomplete" unless you failed to turn in your paper. If for some reason you need to get the final grade on your TAMU transcripts by the end of the semester (for job or graduate school applications, for example), please let me know on or before the due date and I will move your paper to the top of the pile.

**The final grade: 50% class presentations/participation and 50% term paper.**

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Student Services Building. The telephone number is 845-1637.

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