Medieval Seafaring in the Mediterranean
Anthropology 618
Fall 2010
Instructor: Filipe Castro

Classes
Wednesdays, 14:00-17:00. Anthropology Building, Room 105;

Office Hours
Mondays, 14:00 to 16:00, or by appointment. Anthropology Building, Room 105A.
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Semester Schedule
First day of classes: 30 August
First class ANTH618: 01 September
Term paper abstract and bibliography due: 27 October
Term Paper due: 20 April
Last day of Classes: 07 December

Course Description
This course will examine seafaring, maritime commerce, naval affairs, and shipbuilding in Southern and Northern Europe from the late Roman Period until the end of the Middle Ages (for convenience we shall take the fall of Constantinople in 1453 as the end of the Middle Ages in Europe). Each three-hour meeting will encompass one oral report on the day’s theme (45 minutes), followed by three or four oral presentations of case-studies related to the day’s theme (20 minutes), and based on relevant primary material (shipwrecks or historical documents). In addition, there will be general readings assigned to the whole class. In order for this to work, everyone must keep up with the readings, and everyone must participate in the discussion. The final grade is based 50% on oral reports and class participation, and 50% on a term paper.
General Readings


Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sep 1): Introduction

Week 2 (Sep 8): 410-599 in the Mediterranean World: Fall of the Roman Empire
Report
1. The Fall of the Roman Empire

Case-Studies
2. Yassi Ada II, Trade Routes and Ship Sizes
3. Port-Vendres I and Late Roman Shipbuilding
4. Sebastos and Portus
5. Laws Concerning Maritime Trade

Week 3 (Sep 15): 410-599 in the North: Fall of the Roman Empire
Report
6. Romans and Northern Europe

Case-Studies
7. Ship Remains from the Roman Period
8. Roman Ports, Waterfront Structures & Barges
9. Patrol Craft in German Rivers
10. Nydam Ship & Sutton Hoo

Week 4 (Sep 22): 600-799 in the Mediterranean World: Heraclius to Anastasius
Report
11. Heraclius to Anastasius

Case-Studies
12. Luxury Cargoes & Skerki Bank Wrecks
13. Liburnians
14. Naval Campaigns of Constantine
15. Anastasius Fleet
Week 5 (Sep 29): 600-799 in the Mediterranean World: Islam

Report
16. The Islamic World

Case-Studies
17. Shell to Skeleton: Dor D, Tantura A, Yassi Ada I & St. Gervais II
18. Persians and Byzantines
19. The Arab Invasions
20. Lateen Sails

Week 6 (Oct 6): 600-799 in Western Europe: “The Dark Age”

Report
21. The “Dark Age”

Case-Studies
22. Patterns of Settlement and Trade
23. Aspects of Maritime Scandinavia
24. Port Berteau 2
25. Vikings and Sails

Week 7 (Oct 13): 800-999 in the Mediterranean World: Islam

Report
26. The Golden Age of Islam

Case-Studies
27. Byzantium – The Themal System of Defense
28. Bozburun & Serçe Limanı
29. The Saracen Wrecks
30. Navigation & Navigational Instruments

Week 8 (Oct 20): 800-999 in Western Europe: from Charlemagne to the Millennium

Report
31. Charlemagne and the Political Organization of Europe

Case-Studies
32. Alfred and the Danes
33. The Viking Expansion in the North
34. The Atlantic Ocean from St. Brendan to Eric the Red
35. Viking Expansion in the Mediterranean
Week 9 (Oct 27): 1000-1199 in the Mediterranean World: The Crusades

Report
36. The Crusades

Case-Studies
37. Cities, Trade, & Tourism
38. Caravels, Cogs & Cocche
39. Galleys
40. Reconquista

Term paper abstracts due next class!

Week 10 (Nov 3): 1000-1199 in Western Europe: Time of the Cathedrals

Report
41. Time of the Cathedrals: The Formation of the Modern City

Case-Studies
42. The Norman Invasion of England
43. Skuldelev Ships: Function and Trade / Pillaging Routes
44. Early Bottom Based Shipwrecks
45. Cogs: Square Sails, Central Rudders & Sawn Planks

Term paper abstracts due today!

Week 11 (Nov 10): 1200-1399 in the Mediterranean: Italian Maritime Republics

Report
46. Italian Maritime Republics

Case-Studies
47. Venetian Arsenal
48. Lateeners
49. Three-Masted Ships
50. Into the Atlantic! Islands, Monsters, and Magnets in the Bottom of the Sea
Week 12 (Nov 17): 1200-1399 Northern Europe: The Hansa League
Report
  51. The Hansa League

Case-Studies
  52. From Cogs to Hulks
  53. The Black Death, Three-Masted Ships and *Grace Dieu*
  54. Aber W’rac, Newport Ship, & other clinker merchantmen
  55. Introduction of Carvel Building in the North

  *Term papers due next class!*

Week 13 (Nov 24): 1400-1453 in the Mediterranean World: The Italian Renaissance
Report
  56. The Renaissance and the Rise of the Central State

Case-Studies
  57. Italian Ship Treatises: Michael of Rhodes and Zorzi Trombetta
  58. The Ottoman Empire, Galleys & Guns
  59. Caravels, Galleons, and Naos
  60. The Atlantic Expansion

  *Term papers due today!*

Week 14 (Dec 1): Presentation of the Term Papers
Presentation of Term Papers – 10 Minutes Papers
Oral Reports

Oral reports must **fit exactly** within the time frame established. Images, such as slides or computer graphics' presentations are welcome. I expect students to present a short summary in the beginning, followed by a clear and structured report, **a critic analysis of the sources in which the report was based**, and a conclusion.

Every oral report must be accompanied by a short handout. Handouts must be useful to your colleagues for current and future reference. Typically these should contain an abstract of your presentation, critical comments (when found pertinent), and a complete list of the bibliography consulted. Timelines are welcome. Although I consider the graphic aspect very important, I will grade especially the contents. I don’t care too much for handouts with lots of color pictures and no relevant information.

Term Paper

Term papers must follow the style and format of the *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology and Underwater Exploration*, the *American Neptune*, the *Society for Historical Archaeology Publications Style Guide*, or the *Mariner's Mirror*.

I strongly advise all my students to read Dr. Kevin Crisman's *Guidelines for Writing Your Term Paper*.

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.

Aggie Honor Code

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: [www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/](http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/)

On all course work, assignments, and examinations at Texas A&M University, the following Honor Pledge shall be preprinted and signed by the student:

“On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.”