In this course we will examine seafaring, maritime commerce, naval affairs, and shipbuilding in the Mediterranean from the late Roman Period until the end of the Middle Ages (for convenience, say the fall of Constantinople in 1453). 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of case-studies related to the day’s theme (20 minutes), and based on relevant primary material (shipwrecks or historical documents).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


Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 26): Introduction

Week 2 (Feb 02): Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period - Ships and shipbuilding
Report:
1. Late Antiquity and the East-West split: from Diocletian to Theodosius (284-395 AD).

Case-studies:
2. Madrague de Giens – John 1
3. Pointe de la Luque B 1 – Will 1
4. The wreck at La Bourse de Marseilles – Heather 1
5. Yassiada II and Dramont F – Ryan 1

Week 3 (Feb 09): Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period - Cargoes I
Report:
6. From Theodosius to Heraclius (379-641 AD). The merchant world in the Mediterranean.

Case studies:
7. Port-Vendres I – Ryan 2
8. Sebastos and Portus – John 2
9. Laws concerning maritime trade, contracts, obligations, customs and harbor fees - Will 2
10. The Army’s needs. Canals. Road systems – Amanda 1

Week 4 (Feb 19): Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period - Cargoes II
Report:

Case studies:
12. Luxury cargoes – Kelby 1
13. The Skerki Bank wrecks – Isis – Coral 1
Week 5 (Feb 23): Late Roman or Early Byzantine Period - Naval Affairs

Report:

Case studies:
17. The ancient-medieval transition and the competition for maritime dominance – *Renee 1*
18. Naval campaigns in the wars of Constantine – *Coral 2*
19. The fleet of Anastasius – *Heather 2*

*Topic for your term paper due next week before class.*

Week 6 (Mar 02): Byzantines and Arabs - Ships and Shipbuilding

Report:
20. Umayyad (661-750 AD) and Abbasid (750-1258 AD) Caliphates

Case studies:
21. Transition from shell to skeleton: Tantura A, Yassiada I and Saint Gervais II – *Heather 3*
22. The Bozburun shipwreck – *Ryan 3*
23. Serçe Limani and Tantura F shipbuilding - *Amanda 2*
24. The “Saracen” wrecks: Estéou, Agay A and B, Batéguier. Tantura B shipwreck - *Me*

Week 7 (Mar 09): Byzantines and Arabs - Cargoes I

Report:
25. East and West. The Mediterranean during the Abbasid period (750-1258 AD).

Case studies:
26. Iconographic evidence and rigs. Lateen rigging – *Heather 4*
27. Military and civilian supply and demand - *Chris 2*
28. Government intervention/involvement in maritime exchange. The role of the Church - *Will 3*

*Abstract and bibliography of your term paper due next week, before class.*
Week 8 (Mar 16): Spring Break

No class.

Week 9 (Mar 23): Byzantines and Arabs - Naval Affairs

Report:

Case studies:
30. Dromons and the re-emergence of “naval policy” – Ryan 4
31. The themal system of defense - Kelby 2
32. Prepared fire – Heather 5
33. Leo’s Tactica – Heather 5

Week 10 (Mar 30): Byzantines and Arabs - Naval Affairs II

Report:
34. Who were the seafarers - personal possessions from shipwrecks. Life aboard in the year 1000 - Renee 2

Case studies:
35. The cargo of the Yassiada I ship - Chris 3
36. The cargo of the Bozburun ship - Kelby 3
37. The cargo of the Serçe Limani ship - Amanda 3
38. The cargo of the Saracen wrecks - Me

Week 11 (Apr 06): The Crusading Era

Report:

Case studies:
40. From the desert to the sea: navigation and navigational instruments - Will 4
41. Atlantic islands, monsters, and magnets in the bottom of the sea - Renee 3
42. The Vikings arrive! - Kelby 4
43. Traveling in the Mediterranean – John 4
Week 12 (Apr 13): Italy and the Renaissance, 1025-1453

**Report:**
44. The Crusading Era (1095-1291) – Coral 3

**Case studies:**
45. Louis IX’s ships: size and configuration. Transporting horses: the ergonomic and logistical requirements – Coral 4
46. Crusader naval strategy and tactics - Amanda 4
47. Financing the crusade: Louis’s agents - Will 5
48. The Hospitallers - Chris 4

*Term paper due April 20th 9:20 am!*

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Week 13 (Apr 20): Italy and the Renaissance: Ships and Shipwrighty

**Report:**
49. Italy and the Renaissance, 1025-1453. The commercial explosion - Lilia

**Case studies:**
51. The Venetian Arsenal. Private shipbuilding - Lilia
52. Sea Law: rights of owners and sailors - Amanda 5

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Week 14 (Apr 27): Italy and the Renaissance: Naval Affairs

**Report:**
53. Trading in all directions. The Iberian Discoveries.

**Case studies:**
54. On the origin of the 3-masted ship - Renee 4
55. Lateen rigged craft: the Contarina vessels. Iconographic evidence – Coral 5
56. Culip VI and Les Sorres X – Ryan 5

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Week 15 (May 04): Italy and the Renaissance: Naval Affairs

**Report:**
57. Galleys, guns, and the Ottomans

**Case studies:**
58. The Trombetta MS and the book of Michael of Rhodes - Lilia
59. Caravels, naus, and galleons - Renee 5
60. Galleys – John 5
61. Early gun founding - Chris 5
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.

Spring Semester 2004 Schedule

First day of classes: 20 January  
First class ANTH618: 26 January  
Term paper topic due: 02 March  
Term paper abstract and bibliography due: 16 March  
Spring Break: 16-19 March  
Term Paper due: 20 April  
Last day of Classes: 05 May