

Spring, 2020

# Nautical Archaeology of the Americas

## Anthropology 318

**Class: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00-9:15 a.m., Anthropology 130**

**Dr. Kevin Crisman**

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. – 12 noon or by appointment



Anth 318 combines archaeological and historical sources to examine the development of shipbuilding, seafaring practices, exploration, waterborne trade and economic systems, and naval warfare in the Western Hemisphere (the Americas) from the fifteenth century to the end of the American Civil War. Particular emphasis is given to the study of shipwrecks that illuminate change and continuity in the maritime world.

In the twenty-first century few people undertake lengthy voyages on oceans, rivers, or lakes. Throughout most of human history, however, travel over any distance involved ships. This course provides a broader understanding of the vital role of maritime enterprise and technology in the past half-millennium of American history. Students enrolled in Anth 318 will examine recent archaeological discoveries to learn how ships were designed, built, and propelled, and about shipboard life, cargoes, and naval weaponry between 1492 and 1865.

**Text:** George F. Bass, ed. *Ships and Shipwrecks of the Americas*. London:Thames and Hudson, 1988 (revised 1996). Other short readings will be assigned by the instructor via eCampus.

### Course Schedule

**I. Introduction: Nautical Archaeology in the Western Hemisphere.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Introduction and Chapter 1.

Anth 318 Articles.

**II. Understanding the Ship: A Primer on Construction, Rigging, and Equipment.**

Reading: Anth 318 Articles.

**III. European Exploration and Colonization of the Western Hemisphere.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapters 2-4  
Anth 318 Articles.

**IV. The Spanish Seaborne Empire in the Americas.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 5  
Anth 318 Articles.

**V. New Maritime Empires: Northern European Colonization and Trade.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 6.

► **EXAM 1**

**VI. Rivers, Lakes, and Forts: The Anglo-French Conflicts in the Americas.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 7.  
Anth 318 Articles.

**VII. Shipwrecks of the Revolutionary War.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 8.

**VIII. Freshwater Fleets: The Lake Warships of 1812-1815.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 9.  
Anth 318 Articles.



► **EXAM 2**

**IX. Transportation Revolution on Inland Waters I: Canals, Steamers, and Horseboats**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 10.  
Twain, Mark. *Life on the Mississippi*. New York: Harper and Row, 1965. Chapters I-XX.

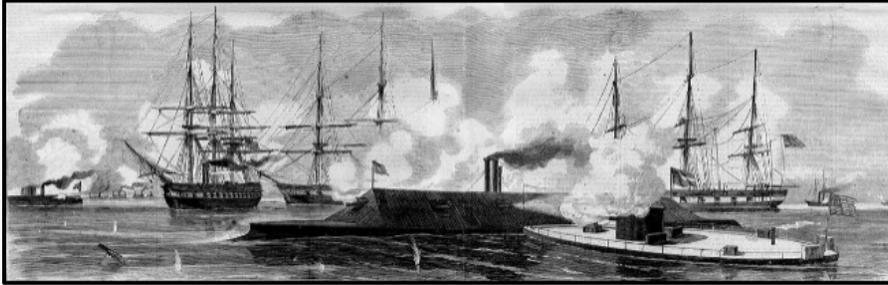


**X. The Golden Age of Sail in the United States, 1815-1860: Clippers and Whalers.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 12.  
Anth 318 Articles.

**XI. The American Civil War and Revolution in Naval Technology.**

Reading: Bass, ed., Chapter 11.  
Anth 318 Articles.



### Examination Schedule:

**First Exam, Tuesday, February 18**

**Second Exam, Tuesday, March 24**

**Final Exam, Monday, May 1, 1-3 p.m.**

### Grade Determination:

Each student's grade will be based on several short take-home fill-in-the-blank or map assignments designed to serve as study aids (10%), two mid-term exams (25% each for a total of 50%), and the final examination (40%). Exams will cover both lectures and readings. A standard grading scale is used in Anth 318: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69=D, 59 or below = F.

### Helpful Hints for Academic Success in Anthropology 318

- My lectures often provide information that is not covered in the readings. Attendance of all classes and diligent note-taking are *highly recommended!* Do not expect to get a good grade if you frequently skip the lectures.
  - If you miss a class, copy the notes of a colleague who attended the class (or better yet, copy the notes of *several* colleagues). If you have questions about the material *after* reading their notes, please make an appointment to see me. My lecture notes are not available for copying.
  - If you are confused about the material covered in the lectures or the reading, or are concerned about your grade, please make an appointment to see me. The earlier you do this, the more likely it is that we can fix the problem before the end of the semester.
  - I am a believer in the use of some form of 'flash cards' as study aids. Use a large note card or a single Word document page to summarize the important points about a particular topic, combining both your class notes and the readings.
  - Do not fail to show up for exams (I do not enjoy preparing make-up exams). If some cataclysmic event prevents you from getting to an exam, then email or text me **before the exam**.
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### Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices

Use of cell phones, pagers, music players, or similar communication devices during class is absolutely prohibited. All such devices must be turned off and tucked away (not visible) during class meetings. In extraordinary circumstances, cell phones may be placed in a silent (vibrate) mode, but students must step out of the classroom in order to respond to, or send messages of any kind. Use of tablets and laptops is permitted, but only for the express purpose of taking notes on class lectures and films. Use of electronic devices for amusement during class will not be tolerated.

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### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>. Disabilities may include, but are not limited, to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

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### Academic Integrity

Any form of academic dishonesty including cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will result in an F for the assignment and possibly the entire course. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism please consult the following resource: <http://bit.ly/JVn1bo> . If you have any other questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section “Scholastic Dishonesty.”

**The Aggie Honor Code: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”**

Any questions?

See the Honor Council Rules and Procedures on the web at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>

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### Diversity in the Anthropology Classroom

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts of Anthropology. In this course each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to the class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values of expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups or viewpoints. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to diversity, and welcomes individuals of all ages, background, citizenship, disabilities, education, ethnicity, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences (See <http://diversity.tamu.edu/>).

