

HI100: History of Sea Power
US Merchant Marine Academy
First Term 2013
Section 4D1: M2, W2, TR2

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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The United States has been and continues to be a maritime nation tied intimately to the sea in its settlement, its commerce, its military power, and its leisure activities. Nevertheless, the American maritime world is quite different today than in 1607 when settlers of the Virginia Company braved the Atlantic passage to settle Jamestown, or in 1784 when the *Empress of China* first showed the American flag in Asia, or even in 1945 when the largest naval armada in the history of the world emerged victorious in the Second World War. History is a story of change. How did the United States go from thirteen colonies of the British Empire clustered along the east coast of North America to a prosperous, industrialized, military power with economic, political, and strategic interests all over the world? That is the broad question that frames this course, and one that we will consider together in each class meeting. In many ways, the answer to this question is maritime. Throughout, we will consider the ways in which technological innovations, science and exploration, environmental change, military power, recreation, workers and labor, and issues of race and gender existed in the maritime context and particularly within the United States Merchant Marine. The purpose is to introduce you to the broad themes of American maritime history, to be able to organize and communicate these themes orally and on written exams and papers, and to begin to think about how historians create meaning out of the past.

TEXTS:

Alex Roland, et al., *The Way of the Ship: America's Maritime History Reenvisioned, 1600-2000*
Joshua M. Smith, ed., *Voyages I: The Age of Sail* and *Voyages II: The Age of Engines*
Craig L. Symonds. *Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History*

The Academy bookstore issues books to each midshipman. You are responsible for completing the assigned reading before class, and for bringing the appropriate *Voyages* text to class on Thursdays for discussion.

GRADES:

Class Participation	130 Points	
Weekly Quizzes/Responses	100 Points	
Essay 1	60 Points	
Essay 2	60 Points	
Mid-Term Exam	75 Points	
Final Exam	75 Points	=500 Total Points

DESCRIPTIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Class Participation

I believe class participation is important. It is worth more, collectively, than any other part of your grade. I expect you to attend class and to participate actively. Each week, I will award 10 points for participation. Participation means not only regular attendance, but active class engagement by asking questions and contributing to class discussions and exam review sessions.

Note: There will be no class participation grade for Week 1.

13 Weeks x 10 Points =130 Points

Weekly Quizzes/Primary Source Writing Responses

Each Thursday, according to my discretion, you will either write an in-class primary source response **OR** take a 5 question quiz. A primary source is anything produced in a particular historical time period—a letter, a journal entry, a newspaper article, cartoon, song lyric, etc.—that historians use as evidence to create meaning from the past. The writing will take place in class and you will have ten minutes to complete it. Possible primary sources are taken from Smith's *Voyages* or may also be sources of my own choosing. In each response, you will strive to answer the questions posed and connect it to what you have read in either the Roland or Symonds texts. Your grade will be based on content, not the quality of the writing itself, though you should always strive to be clear and concise. As the term progresses, I expect to see improvement in your responses, and will grade accordingly. Each short writing assignment will be hand-written, submitted in class on the day it is written, and is worth 10 points. Quizzes will consist of 5 questions, each worth 2 points, which ask basic questions about the week's assigned readings and/or primary sources. **Note: There will be no quiz/response during Weeks 1 and 2.** 10 points x 10 class quizzes/writings =100 Points

Essays

I will provide more detailed explanations in class well before the due dates. In brief, Essay 1 asks you to choose 4 documents from Smith's *Voyages* with a common theme, but which were produced in different historical time periods. Discuss change and continuity over time. In other words, how did things change? How did they stay the same? And Why? Possible themes to choose include technology and industrialization, the place of women in the maritime world, maritime policy, the social condition of sailors aboard ship and on land, the nature of warfare at sea, cargo carrying and ship design, etc. etc. **Note: A preliminary list of sources and a brief explanation of how each relates to the larger theme of your paper will be due Monday, August 19 and will be included in the Essay 1 grade.**

For Essay 2, you may **choose one of the following**: 1. Using Rosen's *Gallant Ship, Brave Men*, examine at least four instances of effective or poor leadership, either on the part of Rosen himself or others aboard the *John Drayton* before or after its sinking. Drawing on supporting evidence from the book, what qualities make for an effective leader at sea? **OR** 2. Using a chapter in Symonds' *Decision at Sea*, analyze one example of leadership in naval combat. What tactical and strategic considerations did the commander face? What were the strengths and weaknesses of his command decisions?

Essays must be well-written, four pages, and 12 Point Times New Roman Font with standard margins. Each is worth 60 Points. Essay 1 is due on August 28. Essay 2 is due on October 7.

Examinations

You will have two exams, consisting of IDs and essay. One week prior to each exam, I will give you a study guide, on which you will find a list of terms and essay topics to consider in preparing for the exam. On each exam, I will give you 10 terms, from which you may choose 5 to identify. Each ID is worth 4 points. I award 3 points for answering Who/What/When/Where and 1 point for discussing the term's historical significance—by which I mean, why is it important? IDs are worth 20 points total. You may choose one of two essays on which to write. The essay is worth 55 points. **The exams are not cumulative.**

POLICIES

Attendance and Behavior

I expect you to attend class, to be on time, and to be attentive. Inappropriate talking, cell phone, or computer use is disrespectful to me and inhibits your learning. Any of these will result in loss of that days class participation points. Absences for medical reasons will be permitted with a doctor's note from Health Services. Note: As class participation makes up more points than any other component of your grade, an easy way to succeed is simply to show up on time and be engaged.

Late Work

I discourage submitting work late, but I will accept it. If for some reason you must submit work late, the following deductions apply: 10 points for late exams; 8 points for essays; 2 points for late Quizzes/Primary Source Responses.

Plagiarism and Cheating

These are serious academic offenses and violations of the Academy's Honor Code. Plagiarism will be dealt with accordingly, resulting in a zero for the assignment and, depending on the circumstance, it can result in failure of the class or even expulsion from the Academy. When you use someone else's ideas or writing without giving them credit in the form of a citation or reference, you are plagiarizing. Please cite with footnotes according to Chicago Style. Otherwise, all written ideas should be your own. Cheating will result in a zero for the assignment and can be subject to action by the Honor Board and/or the Commandant's Office. Using so-called "Ponies" will be considered cheating.

Special Needs

If you have any special needs to which I should be attentive, please see me after class or during office hours to make appropriate arrangements.

Syllabus as Contract

I consider this syllabus a contract that binds us to the assignments, policies, and schedule outlined here. While unforeseen circumstances such as my absence or inclement weather may cause revisions, nothing will be added to this course above that which is stated in the syllabus.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Discussion and Lecture Topic	Readings
1	7/25	The Sea Connects All Things: Course Introduction and the Uses of Maritime History	
2	7/29	Controlling the Great Common: Conceptualizing Sea Power	Symonds, 1-7 Roland, 1-5 Smith I, xiii-xviii Read Syllabus
	7/31	The Question of Beginnings: Indigenous Maritime Cultures, the European Encounter, and the Persistence of Native Mariners	Begin to think about Essay 1
	8/1	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 1: Barlow and Amadas, “The Abundant New World” Hariot and de Bry, “Visualizing Virginia” Juet, “Hudson Explores a River”	Smith I: 9-15 15-20 20-27
3	8/5	Over the Vast and Furious Ocean: The Settlement of North America	Roland, 9-36
	8/7	Connecting Worlds: The Middle Passage, the Atlantic World, and the Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution	Symonds, 7-19 Roland, 37-81
	8/8	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 2: Smith, “New England Fisheries” Various, “Pirate Articles” Equiano, “Galling of the Chains”	Smith I: 28-33 113-116 116-123
4	8/12	Free Trade and Sailors’ Rights: The War of 1812 on the Water	Symonds, 23-79 Roland, 123-129
	8/14	A Maritime Nation: The Sea in Antebellum America	Roland 139-171
	8/15	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 3: Shipherd, “Sailors’ Rights and Free Trade” Reynolds, “A Commercial and Enterprising People” de Tocqueville, “Born to Rule the Seas”	Smith I: 228-231 262-267 267-270
5	8/19	Black Jacks and Jack Tars: Race and Social Class Aboard Ship	Roland, 82-87 Essay 1 Source List Due
	8/21	The Sailor’s Adieu: A Social History of Port Communities	Roland, 99-104
	8/22	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 4: <i>Charleston Courier</i> , “South Carolina vs. Daley” Douglass, “Escape from Slavery” Dana, “Flogging on the <i>Pilgrim</i> ”	Smith I: 256-260 348-354 305-311
6	8/26	Chasing Leviathan: The American Whale Fishery	Work on Essay
	8/28	Seas of Abundance, Seas of Scarcity: Regulation and the Fisheries	Essay 1 Due

	8/29	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 5: Millet, “Whaling Journal” Anonymous, “The Fisherman’s Song” Anonymous, “The Wives of Nantucket”	Smith I: 292-299 311-314 318-320
7	9/2	No Class: Labor Day	No Class
	9/4	Exam Review	Study for Exam
	9/5	Exam 1	Exam 1
8	9/9	The Wilderness of Water: Navigation, Folklore, and the Enduring Power of the Marine Environment	Roland, 172-178
	9/11	From Sail to Steam: The Industrialization of the American Maritime World	Symonds, 83-137 Roland 211-217
	9/12	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 6: Maury, “The Winds and Currents of the Seas” Fulton, “The Steamboat Business” Waddell, “CSS <i>Shenandoah</i> Logbook”	Smith I: 336-340 197-201 390-396
9	9/16	Life on the Mississippi: The Maritime Dimensions of Inland Commerce	Roland, 205-210; 241-251; 218-224
	9/18	On the Waterfront: Labor in the Age of Industrialization	Roland, 218-240; 284-292
	9/19	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 7: <i>Black Rock Gazette</i> , “Launching the <i>Henry Clay</i> ” -----Begin Smith, Volume II----- King, “Down the Mississippi” Williams, “The Crimping System”	Smith I: 243-246 Smith II 16-22 86-90
10	9/23	Visions of Empire: Manifest Destiny in the Caribbean and the Pacific	Symonds, 141-195 Roland 255-263
	9/25	The Sea Around Us: Science and Environmentalism from the Water’s Edge to the Deep Sea	Work on Essay 2
	9/26	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 8: Mahan, “The United States Looking Outward” Mead, “What Our Navy Costs Us” Kennedy, “National Effort in Oceanography”	Smith II: 104-109 121-129 348-354
11	9/30	Highways and Racetracks: Leisure and Disaster in the Age of the Transatlantic Liner	Roland, 275-283; 293-301
	10/2	Sacred Vessels: The Cult of the Battleship and the Changing Nature of War at Sea	Roland, 264-274
	10/3	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 9: Various, “Bathing Beauties” Shipper, “Stewardess on the <i>President Arthur</i> ” Gibbons, “How the <i>Laconia</i> Sank	Smith II: 177-178 224-228 154-160

12	10/7	The Struggle for the Atlantic: U-boats, the Merchant Marine, and the Second World War	Roland, 302-316 Essay 2 Due
	10/9	War Without Mercy: The U.S. Navy in the Pacific War	Symonds, 199-262 Roland, 317-324
	10/10	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 10: Roosevelt, "Rattlesnakes of the Atlantic" Matte, "Action at ICOMP" Gay, "Torpedo Squadron Eight"	Smith II: 240-248 259-265 265-273
13	10/14	No Class: Columbus Day	No Class
	10/16	Boats and Beaches, Bombshells and Bikinis: Gender, Sexuality, and Leisure in the Cold War	Roland, 325-331; 372-389
	10/17	The Invisibility of Gigantism: The American Maritime World in the Era of Flags of Convenience	Roland, 335-352; 362-371; 390-399
14	10/21	In Search of a Mission: Sea Power in a Postmodern World	Symonds, 263-340
	10/23	<i>Voyages</i> Discussion 11: Reagan, "600-Ship Fleet" Calhoon, "Foreign Flag Rustbuckets" Webb, "Defending the Navy's Culture"	Smith II: 310-316 294-300 335-344
	10/24	Exam 2 Review	Study for Exam
15	10/28 -11/1	Exam 2: TBA	Exam 2