

History 350R (39230)

AMS 370 (31205)

Fall 2018 / BEN 1.124 / TTH 2-3:30

Coastal Communities: Life along the Water in Early America

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Office Hours F 1-3 (and by appointment)

Most of America's earliest settlements were coastal communities. Indeed, in human terms, bodies of water: oceans, lakes, rivers, bays, sounds, tidal pools, ponds, and streams helped define both the extent and limits of local, regional, and ultimately global history and culture. Water simultaneously connected and separated through the movements of highly mobile populations, which communicated through exploration, war, commerce, migration, and travel along routes sometimes millennia old during a time when travel by boat was far simpler than overland travel. Hence, while not overlooking inland zones (river valleys in particular), American history can also be understood within the broad, transoceanic web of human geography called Atlantic history and culture. The purpose of this course is to explore the social and cultural history of American coastal communities from an interactive perspective. Ultimately, then, we are concerned with understanding ways to think, read and write about water and water-mediated culture as fundamental modes of contact and communication in the pre-industrial world.

This course meets substantial writing requirements. Students will read widely from a multidisciplinary list. One full-length film will be shown. Attendance is mandatory. Students must contribute regularly to class discussion and turn in brief (2-page maximum) weekly writing assignments analyzing the reading for that week. These readings should not be considered standard book reviews; rather, they take the form of focused essays about problems, issues, and especially questions that the student wants to ask in the seminar, so they are intended to help facilitate discussion. A 5-7-page final paper will propose an article to be included in a (fictitious) collection of essays about the major themes to emerge from this course. Please don't hesitate to come talk with me as soon as possible about your final project. We will meet individually in my office towards the middle of the semester to exchange ideas. Grades: weekly papers (50%); discussion (30%); final essay (20%). Please be aware that the assignment of grades has always been, and remains, up to the discretion of the instructor. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

History 350R is on the US Core Course List and may be used to fulfill three hours of the U.S. history component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility. This course carries ***both*** Independent Inquiry and Writing Flags. Please take a moment to review the flag criteria, available at <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/teaching/flags>.

Required Weekly Readings (at COOP or shop around online / on reserve at PCL):

H. Magnusson and H. Palsson, Vinland Sagas; M. Kurlansky, Cod; P.E Perez-Mallaina, Spain's Men of the Sea; D. Vickers, Farmers and Fishermen; R.L. Kagan and P.D.

Morgan, Atlantic Diasporas; N. Philbrick, In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex; M. Rediker, Villains of All Nations; J. Bolster, Black Jacks; E. A. Proulx, The Shipping News.

August 30th: Organizational Day—Syllabus, Introductions, Big Themes and Questions.

Oceanic History

Sept. 4th

Daniel Vickers, “Beyond Jack Tar” https://www.jstor.org/stable/2947085?pq-origsite=summon&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents ;

Jeffrey Bolster, “Putting the Ocean in Atlantic History”
https://www.jstor.org/stable/40007296?pq-origsite=summon&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

Sept. 6th.

Benjamin Breen and Jorge Canizares-Esquerro, “Hybrid Atlantics: Future Directions for the History of the Atlantic World”

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hic3.12051>

Paper due

The Vikings and other explorers before Columbus

Sept. 11th Intro and 1st half of H. Magnusson and H. Palsson, Vinland Sagas

Sept. 13th Complete reading H. Magnusson and H. Palsson, Vinland Sagas

Paper due

The Lure of Atlantic Fishing

Sept. 18th 1st half of M. Kurlansky, Cod

Sept. 20th Complete M. Kurlansky, Cod

Paper due

Sailing the Atlantic Empires

Sept. 25th (Selections tba) P.E Perez-Mallaina, Spain's Men of the Sea

Sept. 27th Field Trip to the Bullock Texas State History Museum to see the exhibit of La Salle’s ship La Belle.

Paper due on Spain's Men of the Sea

Human Geography, or, Social Interactions and Oceanic Mediation

October 2nd selections tba from Kagan and Morgan, Atlantic Diasporas: Jews, Conversos, and Crypto-Jews in the Age of Mercantilism, 1500-1800

October 4th selections tba from Kagan and Morgan, Atlantic Diasporas: Jews, Conversos, and Crypto-Jews in the Age of Mercantilism, 1500-1800

Paper due

Tensions between Puritans and Sailors in early New England

October 9th First half of D. Vickers, Farmers and Fishermen

October 11th Complete D. Vickers, Farmers and Fishermen

Paper due

Pre-History of Moby Dick

October 16th First half of N. Philbrick, In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex

October 18th Complete N. Philbrick, In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex

Paper due

October 23rd and October 25th, Individual Meetings with Instructor on Final Projects

Coastal Crime

October 30th Cal Winslow, "Sussex Smugglers" and John G. Rule, "Wrecking and Coastal Plunder," (handouts)

Nov. 1st Primary Document: Great Britain. Assizes (Surrey, England). The proceedings at the assizes of the peace, oyer and terminer, and general gaol-delivery for the county of Surry, Held at Guildford, On Thursday, the 9th, Friday, the 10th, and Saturday, the 11th Days of August, 1759; In the Thirty-Third Year of His Majesty's Reign. In which is contained, The Trial at large of Robert Saxby, aged 72, for the Murder of Ann Saxby, his Brother's Wife, aged 83. Also, The Remarkable Trial, Life, and Transactions of Thomas Ansell, commonly called Surry Tom, A most notorious Smuggler, (from his Birth to his Exit) Who was convicted at the Assizes at Lewes, in the County of Sussex, on Tuesday the 7th of August, 1759, for the Murder of Thomas Cole, a Dragoon, (being then in Company with a Gang of Smugglers) near Elmer Sluice, and Slendon-Common, in the said County; for which Murder he was executed at Horsham, on Thursday the 9th of August, 1759. Taken from the Mouths of the two Murderers by the

P. rsons who attended them during their Consinement. London, [1759]. Eighteenth Century Collections Online. Gale. University of Texas at Austin. 28 Aug. 2018
http://find.galegroup.com/ecco/retrieve.do?scale=1.00&docLevel=FASCIMILE&prodId=ECCO&tabID=T001&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&retrieveFormat=MULTIPAGE_DOCUMENT&inPS=true&userGroupName=txshracd2598&docId=CW3323810221¤tPosition=1&workId=0285900400&relevancePageBatch=CW123810208&contentSet=ECCOArticles&callistoContentSet=ECCOArticles&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&reformatPage=N&retrieveFormat=MULTIPAGE_DOCUMENT&scale=1.00&pageIndex=13&orientation=&showLOI=&quickSearchTerm=&stwFuzzy=&doDirectDocNumSearch=false&searchId=

Paper due

Pirates

Nov. 6th First half of M. Rediker, Villains of All Nations

Nov 8th Complete M. Rediker, Villains of All Nations

Paper due

The African Atlantic

Nov. 13th First half of J. Bolster, Black Jacks

Nov. 15th Complete J. Bolster, Black Jacks

Paper due

Film

Nov. 20th “The Old Man and the Sea” (Spencer Tracy, 1958, 1 hr. 26 mins): Great film adaptation of Hemingway’s famous story of a Cuban fisherman who “goes out too far.”

Nov 22nd Thanksgiving holiday

No paper

The Coastal Novel

Nov. 27 First half of E. A. Proulx, The Shipping News

Nov. 29 Complete E. A. Proulx, The Shipping News

Student Oral Presentations of Final Papers in Class

Dec. 4th and Dec. 6th / Final papers due Dec. 11th

