

Topics in Transnational Literature and Culture: Oceanic Studies

ENG 673.600

Fall 2016 / Dr. Shawna Ross

Distribution requirements:

One course organized around concepts, issues, or themes, rather than chronologically;
One course in English without Borders (transnational and/or diasporic literatures/cultures/theory; interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary study; cultural study of film, digital technologies, new media, popular culture)

The rise of oceanic studies across a number of literary fields, underlined by numerous special issues in academic journals (including *PMLA* in 2010 and *Atlantic Studies* in 2013), has encouraged transnational scholars to revisit both the imaginative and institutional histories of the ocean. This course will pair theoretical and critical works on oceanic studies with literary texts from a variety of times and places. Students will write weekly 2-page responses, submitted the night before class; write and present a “state of the field” review of oceanic studies scholarship in the student’s home discipline; and will write a 20-25-page seminar paper that applies oceanic studies to a text, author, or other analytical object from the student’s home discipline.

September 1

??? Some short reading ???

September 8: Oceanic Studies I

Oceanic Studies issue, [PMLA 125.3](#) (May 2010): 657-736
From Fernand Braudel, *Memory and the Mediterranean*
Homer, *The Odyssey* 9780061244186 (Lattimore translation)

September 15: Oceanic Studies II

Oceanic Studies issue, [Atlantic Studies 10.2](#) (2013): 149-295
Geography readings in your Norton *Tempest*
Shakespeare, *The Tempest* 9780393978193
Robert Browning, “Caliban upon Setebos”

September 22: The Romantic Atlantic

From Ian Baucom, *Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History* (2005)
W. H. Auden, “The Desert and the Sea”
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* 9780393974942

September 29: The Slave Trade

From Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness* (1993)

From Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History: 1660-1783* (1890)
Joseph Conrad, *The Nigger of the Narcissus* 9780393090192

October 6: Modernity as Piracy

From Cesare Casarino, *Modernity at Sea: Melville, Marx, Conrad in Crisis* (2002)
From C. L. R. James, *Mariners, Renegades and Castaways: The Story of Herman Melville and the World We Live In* (1953)
Hester Blum, "Melville and Oceanic Studies," in the *New Cambridge Companion to Herman Melville* (2014)
Melville, *Billy Budd* and *Benito Cereno* 9780393976410

October 13: Children's Adventure Literature

From Wilson's *Pirate Utopias*
From Daniel Defoe's *History of the Pyrates*
J. M. Barrie, *Peter Pan* 9780199537839
R. L. Stevenson, *Treasure Island* 9781937075019

October 20: Adult's Adventure Literature

From Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (2000)
From Laura Doyle, *Freedom's Empire: Race and the Rise of the Novel in Atlantic Modernity, 1640-1940* (2008)
Film in class: *Enemy Below*
C. S. Forester, *Beat to Quarters* 9780316289320

October 27: Short Voyage, Short Fiction

Douglas Hart, "Sociability and 'Separate Spheres' on the North Atlantic"
Rennella, Mark, and Whitney Walton. "Planned Serendipity," *Journal of Social History* 38.2 (2004)
Anthony Trollope, "The Journey to Panama"
Henry James, "The Patagonia"
Katherine Mansfield, "The Stranger," "The Voyage"
F. Scott Fitzgerald, "A Rough Crossing"
Somerset Maugham, "A Winter Cruise"

November 3: The Titanic

Film in class: *A Night to Remember*
Harriet Monroe, "Titanic Requiem," "At the Ship's Rail," "The Ocean Liner"
Joseph Conrad, "Some Reflections on the Loss of the *Titanic*"
Beryl Bainbridge, *Every Man For Himself* 9780786704675

November 10: The World Voyage

From Lorraine Coons and Alexander Verias, *Tourist Third Cabin: Steamship Travel in the Interwar Years* (2003)
From *Archeipelagic Modernism: Literature in the Irish and British Isles, 1890-1970*
Vita Sackville-West, *No Signposts in the Sea* 9780860685784

November 17: Caribbean Rewrites I

From Lara Feigel and Alexandra Harris, *Modernism on Sea: Art and Culture at the British Seaside* (2011)

From Margaret Cohen, *The Novel and the Sea* (2010)

Spivak, "Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism"

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* 9780393960129

December 1: Caribbean Rewrites II

Ileana Sands, "Fiction Rewrites Caribbean History"

Aimé Césaire, *A Tempest*

Derek Walcott, *Omeros* 9780374523503

December 6: Contemporary Circulations

From Alpers, *The Indian Ocean in World History*

Film in class: *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*

Amitov Ghosh, *A Sea of Poppies* 9780312428594