

Semester at Sea Course Syllabus

Discipline: History

Fall 2008

HIST 200Z: The Age of Discoveries

Lower Division

Faculty Name: Patricia O'Neill

Suggested Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the encounter of Europe and Europeans with the “new worlds” in the time period known as the Age of Discoveries [1400s-1600s] and on the process known as the Columbian Exchange. The outward global expansion of Europeans resulted in many things: new patterns of cultural, religious and economic diffusion, and also the interaction of different ecological systems [including flora, fauna and microorganisms/ diseases]. This phenomenon will be examined from the perspective of three themes: people’s perceptions of the natural world, the impact “discoveries” and explorations had on Europe and on the “new worlds” and the impact that the European concepts of race and gender, and “the other” had on the radical reshaping of the culture and economy of what was to them the “new worlds”. The course will be organized geographically and topically to take advantage of the unique opportunities provided by Semester at Sea. Concepts such as “ecological imperialism: the overseas migration of Western Europeans as a biological phenomenon” will emphasize the impact of the Columbian exchange on the areas we will be visiting. Through readings, discussions, lectures, films, and field trips, we will question our assumptions about “nature” in order to conceptualize environments as dynamic places shaped by both biological and cultural processes. Finally, we will take advantage of the fact that we will be sailing some of the routes taken by people, diseases, food products and technologies during the Age of Discoveries to highlight the themes and concepts of the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Provide students with a conceptual framework within which to understand the Age of Discoveries and the Columbian Exchange.
2. Employ historical thinking and inquiry to understand and to interpret events, issues, developments, and relationships about the Age of Discoveries and the Columbian Exchange.
3. Identify, analyze, develop and defend particular interpretations of the Age of Discoveries and the Columbian Exchange. Explain how and why historical interpretations differ and how they are affected by time [i.e., historical context].
4. Utilize evidence from primary and secondary sources to understand and describe events, issues, developments, relationships, and perspectives of the Age of Discoveries and the Columbian Exchange.
5. To differentiate and analyze historical statistical evidence about the Age of Discoveries and the Columbian Exchange.
6. Use formal and informal writing to develop and to express historical interpretations and analysis of the Age of Discoveries and the Columbian Exchange.

OUTLINE OF COURSE:

Day 1: Introduction: The Columbian Exchange and the Columbian Historians

Reading: “The Columbian Voyages, the Columbian Exchange and Their Historians” in Alfred Crosby’s *Germs, Seeds and Animals: Studies in Ecological History*, M.E. Sharpe: New York, 1994, pp. 3-27

Day 2: Was Columbus the First?

Reading: Patrick Huyghe, “The First Americans” in *Columbus Was Last: From 200,000 BC to 1492, A Heretical History of Who Was First*, Hyperion Press, 1994, Chapter , pp. 10-27

Day 3: The Columbian Age of Exploration

Reading: John Thornton, “The Birth of the Atlantic World” in Thomas Benjamin, ed., *The Atlantic World in the Age of Empire*, Houghton Mifflin: New York, 2001, pp. 18-28

Brazil for 5 days [September 7 – 11th]

Day 4: The Environmental Impact of African-American Slavery

Reading: Paul Bohannon and Philip Curtin, “The African Slave Trade” in Lynn Nelson’s *The Human Perspective: Readings in World Civilization*, Volume II: The Modern World through the 20th Century, Wadsworth Publishing, 1996, pp. 20-31.

➤ **Response Paper 1 due: Definition of *environmental change***

Day 5: Drugs, Labor and Colonial Expansion

Reading: Charles Ambler, “Alcohol and the Slave Trade in West Africa, 1400-1850.” *Drugs, Labor, and Colonial Expansion*, William Jankowiak and Daniel Bradburd, ed., University of Arizona Press, 2003, pp. 73 - 88.

Day 6: Botanical Gardens of the Dispossessed

Reading: Judith Carney, “Out of Africa: Colonial Rice History in the Black Atlantic” *Colonial Botany Science, Commerce, and Politics in the Early Modern World*, Londa Schiebinger and Claudia Swan, Eds., University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia, 2005

Namibia for 5 days [September 19 – 23rd]

Day 7: The Indian Ocean in Eurasian and African World Systems

Reading: Philippe Beaujard, “The Indian Ocean in Eurasian and African World-Systems before the 16th Century,” *Journal of World History*, Volume 16, No. 4, 2005, pp. 411- 465

- **Response Paper 2 due: Assessing the African Contribution to Rice Cultivation in the Americas**

South Africa for 7 days [September 26 – October 2nd]

Day 8: Ecological Imperialism

Reading: “Ecological Imperialism: The Overseas Migration of Western Europeans as a Biological Phenomenon” in Alfred Crosby’s *Germs, Seeds and Animals: Studies in Ecological History*, M.E. Sharpe: New York, 1994, pp.28-44

Day 9: The Drug Connection

Reading: “The Drug Connection” in Jack Weatherford’s *How the Indians of America Transformed the World*, Ballantine Books: New York, 1998, pp. 197-216

- **Response Paper 3 due: Ecological Imperialism**

Day 10: Opium and Colonialism

Reading: Wolfgang Schivelbusch, “Tobacco: The Dry Inebriant” *Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants and Intoxicants*, Pantheon Books: New York, 1995, pp. 96-146

Day 11: First Contacts between Indian and European Medical Systems

Reading: M. N. Pearson, “First Contacts between Indian and European Medical Systems: Goa in the 16th Century,” in David Arnold’s *Warm Climates and Western Medicine: The Emergence of Tropical Medicine, 1500-1900*, Rodopi Press: Amsterdam, 1996, pp. 20-41

Day 12: South Asians: Producers of Botanical Knowledge for Neo-Europeans

Reading: Kapil Raj, “Surgeons, Fakirs, Merchants, and Craftspeople: Making L'Empereur's Jardin in Early Modern South Asia”, in *Colonial Botany Science, Commerce, and Politics in the Early Modern World*, Londa Schiebinger and Claudia Swan, Eds, University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia, 2005

India for 5 days [October 14 – 18th]

Day 13: The Columbian Search for Spices

Reading: Wolfgang Schivelbusch, “Spices”, *Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants and Intoxicants*, Pantheon: New York, 1995, p.3-14

Day 14: Examination

Penang for 5 days [October 22 – 26th]

Day 15: The European Invention of Environmental ‘otherness’

Reading: “Inventing Tropicality” in David Arnold’s *The Problem of Nature: Environment, Culture and European Expansion*, Blackwell: London, 1996, pp. 141-168

Viet Nam for 6 days [October 30th – November 4th]

Day 16: Did China Discover the Americas?

Reading: “On the Shoulders of Giants” in Gavin Menzies’ *1421: The Year the Chinese Discovered America*, Harper Collins: New York, 2004, pp. 375-408

➤ **Response Paper 4 due: Inventing Tropicality/ Otherness**

Hong Kong for 2 day [November 6 – 7th]

No classes in between

Shanghai for 2 days [November 10 – 11th]

Day 17: The Short Route to Asia

Reading: “The Short Route to Asia”, Marvin Lunenfeld, *1492: Discovery, Invasion, Encounter*, Heath: New York, 1991, pp. 61-74

Kobe for 2 days [November 14 – 15th]

No classes in between

Yokohama for 2 days [November 17 – 18th]

Day 18: Transoceanic Exchange of Diseases

Reading: “Transoceanic Exchanges, 1500-1700” in William McNeill’s *Plagues and Peoples*, Anchor Books: New York, 1977, pp. 199-234

Day 19: The Early History of Syphilis

Reading: “The Early History of Syphilis: A Reappraisal” in Alfred Crosby’s *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, Greenwood: New York, 1992, pp. 123-163

Day 20: The Culinary Revolution

Reading: “The Culinary Revolution” in Jack Weatherford’s *How the Indians of America Transformed the World*, Ballantine Books: New York, 1998, pp. 99-115

➤ **Response Paper 5 due: Syphilis**

Day 21: Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies

Reading: “Yali’s People” in Jared Diamond’s *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*, W. W. Norton: New York, 1999, pp. 295-321

➤ **Response Paper 6 due: Culinary Revolution**

Honolulu for 1 day [November 27th]

Day 22: Demographic Shifts as a Consequence of the Columbian Exchange

Reading: “Spanish Interbreeding” and “Migration of Peoples” in Marvin Lunenfeld’s *1492: Discovery, Invasion, Encounter*, Heath: New York, 1991pp. 321-334

➤ **Response Paper 7 due: Yali’s People**

Day 23: Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History

Reading: Sydney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*, Penguin: New York, 1986, Chapter 1.

➤ **Response Paper 8 due: Environmental Consequences Intermingling Peoples**

Last day: Final Exam

Costa Rica for 3 days [December 7 – 9th]

Transit Panama Canal December 11th

Convocation: December 13th

FIELD COMPONENT: 20% of the contact hours for the course is provided by field work. Students will be required to hand in **two field reports** based on their own shore experiences. These reports may come from a faculty directed field trip or from their own personal experiences in port.

These reports should draw on knowledge obtained in the classroom, and from readings, focused on the Age of Discoveries and the Columbian Exchange.

The **first field report** must be related to the **Atlantic World Encounters of Europeans, Americans, and Africans**, so the field experience must be completed in Brazil, Namibia or South Africa.

Faculty-directed activity choices for 1st field report and specific concepts to focus on :

Afro-Brazilian Museum & Candomblé House [FDP: O'Neill] (900-1200 Thurs, 11 September)

Candomblé is an Afro-Brazilian religion based primarily on the beliefs of the Yoruba and other peoples of West Africa. In colonial times, slaves were prohibited from practicing their religion for fear that it would serve to reinforce their group identity. To avoid persecution the slaves gave Catholic names and figures to their African gods (*orixás*). At the Afro-Brazilian Museum, you will see the different costumes of the major *orixás* and will be given a detailed explanation of the characteristics and significance of these deities in the *Candomblé* faith. The museum houses a major work by Salvador's greatest artist, *Carybé*, portraying the breadth and scope of the *Candomblé* faith. Following the museum visit, we will proceed to a *terreiro*, or *Candomblé* house.

In this practicum, participants will have an opportunity to utilize important concepts such as the impact of African-American slavery, labor and colonialism and demographic shifts as a consequence of the Columbian Exchange. The aim of this FDP is to relate the historical information about the connections between Bahia and West Africa to the broader concept of the Columbian Exchange and the Age of Discovery.

Cape Town, Apartheid & Robben Island [FDP: O'NEILL] (800-1800 Sat, 27 September)

This trip provides historical insight into the social injustices of Cape Town's past. Begin the day's journey with a stop at the Bo-Kaap Museum, an example of a Malay Quarter residence. Experience the unique culture, lifestyle and personality of this Cape Muslim community and their role in Cape Town's development. Then visit the District Six Museum and learn how 60,000 families were forcibly removed from that once vibrant suburb. Next, a visit to the townships and Cape Flats shows how sprawling satellite camps of endless shanties provide little more than a roof and some shelter. This journey through history continues with a visit to *Langa*, the oldest existing township on the Western Cape. Local community workers host you in this community as numerous squatters set about building their own brick homes, with the help of state grants. Then sample traditional African sorghum beer at a local tavern, or *shebeen*, before enjoying a lunch of traditional South African dishes. Afterwards, continue to Robben Island by ferry. This former leper colony was a political prison during *Apartheid*. View Nelson Mandela's prison cell while ex-political prisoners give a detailed commentary. Also visit the quarry, where personalities in the struggle were put to back-breaking labor. Robben Island also hosts about 23 mammals and 132 bird species including the African penguin. In this practicum, participants will have an opportunity to utilize important concepts such as the impact of African colonialism and the consequences of the European imperialism. The aim of this FDP is to relate the historical information about apartheid to the broader concept of the Columbian Exchange and the Age of Discovery.

The **second field report** must be focused on one of the topical themes of the course, such as the culinary revolution, the drug connection or the demographic shifts as a consequence of the Columbian Exchange.

Ethnic Communities in Malaysia [FDP: O'NEILL] (1000-1500 Wed, 22 October)

Malaysia is a country of great ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity. Malays comprise approximately 60% of the population, about 30% are ethnic Chinese and nearly 10% are ethnic Indian. The three major ethnic dialects are Hokkien, which is of Chinese origin and only spoken in Penang; Tamil, which is of Indian origin; and Malay or Bahasa Melayu but spoken in a regional dialect, known commonly as *mamak*. This trip will visit communities of these three major ethnic groups in order to compare their similarities and differences. Lunch will be prepared by one of the local communities. A stop to the State History Museum will also be made. In this practicum, participants will have an opportunity to utilize important concepts such as the impact of colonialism, demographic shifts as a consequence of the Columbian Exchange, and the consequences of the European imperialism. The aim of this FDP is to relate the historical information about ethnic communities and the history of Malaysia to the broader concept of the Columbian Exchange and the Age of Discovery.

Cu Chi Tunnels & Cao Dai Temple [FDP: O'NEILL] [800-1900 Friday, 31 October]

Located approximately two hours from Ho Chi Minh City, Cu Chi is famous for its 200-kilometer network of underground tunnels. These tunnels were created and used by the Viet Cong forces during wars with both the French and Americans. Before visiting the tunnel system, you will be shown a video explaining their history and construction. From the mid-1940s onward, the tunnels were used as a base from which the Viet Cong could launch strategic attacks and then seemingly disappear into thin air. The tunnels had well-hidden entrances and thick roofs which were capable of withstanding the weight of tanks and the impact of bombs. Unknowingly, the Americans even built a base camp on top of an existing tunnel network and suffered extensive casualties before they discovered their mistake. Most of the tunnels were only about two feet wide and five feet high. However, some of the passageways and tunnel rooms [e.g., meeting room, kitchen, dining room and hospital], while still small, have been enlarged for easier access. If you decide to visit the lower levels of the tunnels which have not been enlarged, you will most likely get dirty while crawling through the narrow passageways. You may wish to bring a flashlight to assist in navigating these lower levels.

Tay Ninh (a drive of about three hours from Ho Chi Minh City) serves as headquarters for one of Viet Nam's most interesting indigenous religions, Caodaism. Caodaism is the product of an attempt to create the ideal religion through the fusion of the secular and religious philosophies of the East and West. The result is a colorful potpourri that includes elements of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, native Viet Nameese spiritism, Christianity and Islam. The main tenets of Caodaism include believing in one God, the existence of the soul, and the use of mediums to communicate with the spiritual world. The Holy See of the Cao Dai includes the Great temple, offices, residences for officials and a hospital of traditional Viet Nameese herb al medicine to which people from all over the south travel for treatment. The Great temple is one of the most striking structures in all of Asia, with its rococo extravagance and many architectural idiosyncrasies. Services are held daily at 0600, 1200, 1800 and 2400. In this practicum, participants will have an opportunity to utilize important concepts such as the impact of colonialism and the consequences of the European imperialism on Viet Nam. The aim of this FDP is to relate the historical information about Viet Nam to the broader concept of the Columbian Exchange and the Age of Discovery.

Yokohama City Orientation (1300-1800 Monday, 17 November) Minimum 40/Maximum 44

Although originally a small fishing village, Yokohama is a major commercial hub and remains a prominent port city within Japan. Many Western influences were first introduced in this prefecture. Japan's first English language newspaper, the *Japan Herald*, was first published in Yokohama in 1861. Japan's first gas-powered street lamps were built in 1872 as well as the country's first railway that stretched from Yokohama to Tokyo's Shinagawa and Shimbashi. On this trip, visit some of the many highlights found in Japan's second largest city.

Begin the orientation by stopping at the Yokohama Foreign Cemeteries, the former site of the Zotokuin Temple and the official cemetery for foreign residents, many of which have significantly contributed to Japanese culture. Among those buried here are cartoonist Charles Wirgman who penned *Japan Punch*, British journalist Edmund Morel who led the British pacifist movement during World War I and unknown foreign soldiers and civilians killed at the Namamugi Incident – a samurai attack on foreign nationals in 1862. Continue to Harbor View Park. Once there, visit Landmark Tower, which is the tallest building in Japan and enjoy a panoramic view from its observation deck, referred to as 'Sky Garden'. Continue to the Sankeien Garden before returning to the ship. Originally built by silk trader Tomitaro Hara as his private residence, this authentic Japanese garden sprawls 175,000-square meters and features a three-story pagoda, a Buddhist sanctum, and several tea ceremony houses. In this practicum, participants will have an opportunity to utilize important concepts such as the impact of colonialism and the consequences of the European imperialism on Japan. The aim of this FDP is to relate the historical information about Yokohama to the broader concept of the Columbian Exchange and the Age of Discovery.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

There will be a written **midterm** and a **final** exam.

In addition, each student will be required to complete **four reflective response papers** based on the readings which are designed to reinforce the information we cover in class. In total, there will be 8 possible response paper topics; students may choose which four of the eight they would like to do. Each response paper will be worth **5% of the final grade**. In total, the 4 assignments comprise **20% of the final grade**. Assignments that are turned in a class period late will lose one complete letter grade.

Percentages:

Final exam	= 20%
Mid-term	= 20%
Written field reports	= 20%
Reflective response papers [4]	= 20%
Individual class participation	= 20%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

None

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR Alfred Crosby

TITLE “The Columbian Voyages, the Columbian Exchange and Their Historians” in Alfred Crosby’s *Germs, Seeds and Animals: Studies in Ecological History*, M.E. Sharpe: New York, 1994, pp. 3-27

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Patrick Huyghe

TITLE “The First Americans” in *Columbus Was Last: From 200,000 BC to 1492, A Heretical History of Who Was First*, Hyperion Press, 1994, Chapter , pp. 10-27

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR John Thornton

TITLE “The Birth of the Atlantic World” in Thomas Benjamin, ed., *The Atlantic World in the Age of Empire*, Houghton Mifflin: New York, 2001, pp. 18-28

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Paul Bohannon and Philip Curtin

TITLE “The African Slave Trade” in Lynn Nelson’s *The Human Perspective: Readings in World Civilization*, Volume II: The Modern World through the 20th Century, pp. 20-31.

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Charles Ambler

TITLE “Alcohol and the Slave Trade in West Africa, 1400-1850.” *Drugs, Labor, and Colonial Expansion*. Eds., William Jankowiak and Daniel Bradburd. University of Arizona Press, 2003, pp. 73 - 88.

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Judith Carney

TITLE “Out of Africa: Colonial Rice History in the Black Atlantic” *Colonial Botany Science, Commerce, and Politics in the Early Modern World*, Londa Schiebinger and Claudia Swan, Editors, University of Pennsylvania Press

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Philippe Beaujard

TITLE “The Indian Ocean in Eurasian and African World-Systems before the 16th Century,” *Journal of World History*, Volume 16, No. 4, 2005, pp. 411- 465.

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AUTHOR Jack Weatherford
TITLE "The Drug Connection" in *How the Indians of America Transformed the World*, pp. 197-216

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Wolfgang Schivelbusch
TITLE "Opium and Colonialism" *Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants and Intoxicants*, Pantheon Books, pp. 96-146.

ELECTRONIC RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR M. N. Pearson
TITLE "First Contacts between Indian and European Medical Systems: Goa in the 16th Century," in David Arnold's *Warm Climates and Western Medicine*, pp. 20-41

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Kapil Raj
TITLE "Surgeons, Fakirs, Merchants, and Craftspeople: Making L'Empereur's Jardin in Early Modern South Asia", in *Colonial Botany Science, Commerce, and Politics in the Early Modern World*, Londa Schiebinger and Claudia Swan, Editors, University of Pennsylvania Press.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Wolfgang Schivelbusch
TITLE "Spices", *Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants and Intoxicants*, Pantheon, p.3-14.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR David Arnold
TITLE "Inventing Tropicality" in *The Problem of Nature: Environment, Culture and European Expansion*, pp. 141-168

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Gavin Menzes
TITLE "On the Shoulders of Giants" in Gavin Menzies' *1421: The Year the Chinese Discovered America*, pp. 375-408

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Marvin Lunenfeld
TITLE "The Short Route to Asia", Marvin Lunenfeld, *1492: Discovery, Invasion, Encounter*, Heath, pp. 61-74.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR William McNeill
TITLE "Transoceanic Exchanges, 1500-1700" in *Plagues and Peoples*, pp. 199-234

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AUTHOR Alfred Crosby
TITLE “The Early History of Syphilis: A Reappraisal” in *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, pp. 123-163

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Jack Weatherford
TITLE “The Culinary Revolution” in *How the Indians of America Transformed the World*, pp. 99-115

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Jared Diamond
TITLE “Yali’s People” in *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*, pp. 295-321

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Marvin Lunenfeld
TITLE “Spanish Interbreeding” and “Migration of Peoples” in *1492: Discovery, Invasion, Encounter*, pp. 321-334

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR Sydney Mintz
TITLE *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*, Penguin, Chapter 1.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST