

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Literature
Fall 2008
Literature of the Sea: Voyages
Upper Division
Erika Paterson

Suggested Pre-requisites:

Students should have at least six credits in English Literature or permission by the instructor.

Literature of the Sea: Voyages

When we discover in this world no earth or rock to stand upon but only shifting sea and sky and wind, the mature response is not to lament the loss of fixivity but to learn to sail. James Boyd,

In this class we will study classical literature that captures themes of sea voyages as a source of the unknown and of self-knowledge. We'll read stories that follow the spirit of colonialism that haunts shipboard tales and the shipwrecked. Against this classical literature, we'll read chronicles of pirates and single-handed sailors and study the narrative of voyaging. We will explore our readings from both a literary perspective concerned with imagining and experiencing the sea and a cultural studies context that works to situate the literary in histories of slavery, colonialism, piracy and migrations by sea. In this weaving together of literature and essays we will work to explore how sea going voyages shape history, cultures -- and ourselves. The Field Component of this course will include exploring the 'culture of sea ports' and creating visual presentations of local maritime culture. Students will need a digital camera and cable for uploading images to their laptops.

OBJECTIVES:

This course has three central objectives:

- To enrich and enliven your appreciation for literature and to sharpen your understanding of genre and narrative while expanding your skills with composing narrative and visual composition.
- To gain a deeper understanding of historical and contemporary maritime cultures and a unique understanding of the ports we visit and the people we meet.
- Maritime culture is richly visual and accordingly students will also work to compose visual narratives that capture their experience of 'life at sea' and the activities of harbors and seaports.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE:

AT SEA: Nassau to Salvador, Brazil (9 days)

Aug 31/ A1: *Introduction to our class*

Read: Wallcott, "The Sea is History"

- Unger, Origins of Methods of Navigation
- Gomez, Transatlantic Moment 59 -81
- Foulke, The literature of Voyaging (lore of the sea) 1 -13

Sept 02/ A2: *Voyaging*

Read: Foulke, The Nature of Voyaging p xi - 26

Sept 04/ A3: *The Voyage Narrative:*

Read Foulke, The literature of Voyaging (lore of the sea) 1 -13

AT SEA: Salvador to Walvis Bay, Africa (7 days)

Sept 12/ A4: *Reflections on Brazil: visual presentations and discussion*

Read: Goodall, Representing Ethnographic Experience

View: Hall, Representations (60 min)

Sept 14/ A 5 *Reading the Global: Conrad*

Read: Conrad : Nigger of Narcissus

Sept 17/ A6: *The Middle Passage:*

Read: Foulke : Chapter 5: Voyages of Endurance

AT SEA: Walvis Bay to Cape Town: (2 days)

Sept 24/ A7: *Conrad & Slavery*

Read: Conrad, Heart of Darkness

- Smallwood, The Living Dead 122-152
- Trotter: "Sailors as Scribes"

AT SEA: Cape Town to Chennai: (11 days)

Oct 03/ A 8: *Reflections on Africa: visual presentations & discussion*

Oct 05/ A 9: *Navigation and the Oral tradition*

Read: Homer, Odyssey (excerpts)

- Archibald, Out of the Central Sea 1 -9
- Foulke, Ch 2: Navigation and the Oral Tradition

Oct 07/ A 10: *Joshua Slocum*

Read: Joshua Slocum

Oct 10/ A 11: *Joshua Slocum*

Read: Joshua Slocum

Oct 12/ A 12: *Sirens, Mermaids and Pirates*

Read: Cordingly, Introduction 1 -12/ Women and Water 154 – 170

- Creighton & Norling, Liberty beneath the Jolly Roger 1 – 33.

AT SEA: Chennai to Penang (3 days)

Oct 19/ A 13: *Piracy in Asia*

Read: Gottschalk, The Evolution of Piracy

- Bateman, The New Threat of Maritime Terrorism 241 – 255.

Oct 21/ A 14: Review

AT SEA: Penang to Ho Chi Minh (3 days)

Oct 28/ A 15: *Narratives of the Vietnam 'boat people'*

Read: Cargill & Huynh, Voices p 1 -34 / 66 -85

AT SEA: Ho Chi Minh to Hong Kong (2 days)

Nov 04/ A 16: **Read:**Cargill & Huynh, Voices

Read: Foulke, Chapter 6: Voyage Narratives

AT SEA: Shanghi to Kobe (2 days)

Nov 12/ A 17: *The Port of Kobe*

Read: Stevens, The Port of Kobe

AT SEA: Yokahama to Honolulu (8 days)

Nov 19/ A 18: *Reflections on Asia: visual presentations & discussion*

Nov 20/ A 19: Review Class

Nov 23/ A 20: *Presentations & Discussion*

Nov 25/ A 21: *Presentations & Discussion*

AT SEA: Honolulu to Puntarenas (9 days)

Nov 28/ A 22: *Presentations & Discussion*

Nov 30/ A 23: Reflections on our journey together

FIELD COMPONENT:

The field requirements of this course will include creating a photographic narrative of *each* port we visit. Seaports are richly photographic and an understanding of literature of the sea and maritime culture should include a sense of a life in port. As well as capturing maritime images that reflect life in the seaports we visit, students will also be required to participate in THREE field practica. Two of these should be FDP led by me, of the field trips led by me, I am especially eager to see you participate in the field trip in Cape Town (Dockside Culture). The third practica will be an Independent Practica which students will develop either as part of regularly-offered SAS trip, or as an independent excursion. Your independent practica is meant to provide either an experience or research findings that will become a *major source of material* for your final 'voyage narrative.' We will discuss Independent Practica in our first class and students will present proposals well before arriving in port. Students will keep a Field Work notebook in which they record their expectations before departing the ship and their observations and encounters in port. We will present and utilize our visual narratives in class to reflect on the ports we visit, and at the end of term students will present a visual narrative of each port along with their field notes for 20%. *Students will need to be able to upload images from their camera to a computer.*

METHODS OF EVALUATION

- Students will write 2 short papers worth 15% each for a total of 30%
- Students will create and present a visual composition of their voyage and ports we visit: 20%
- Students will write a narrative of their voyage which weaves together an understanding of our readings with their experiences at sea: 40 %
- Participation in class discussions: 10%

REQUIRED TEXT BOOKS:

AUTHOR: Cargill, Mary Terrel & Huynh, Jade Quang
TITLE: Voices of Vietnamese Boat People
PUBLISHER: MacFarland & Co.
ISBN: 0-7864-0785-9
DATE/EDITION: 2000
COST: \$35.00

AUTHOR: Foulke, Robert
TITLE: The Sea Voyage Narrative
PUBLISHER: Twayne Publishers
ISBN: 0-8057-0968-1
DATE/ EDITION: 1997
COST: \$40.00

AUTHOR: Gilkerson, William & Slocum, Joshua
TITLE: Sailing Alone Around the World
PUBLISHER: Shambhala
ISBN: 157062 4984
DATE/EDITION: 1999
COST; \$16.90

AUTHOR: Goonetilleke, D.C.R.A. (ed.)
TITLE; Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad
PUBLISHER: Broadview
ISBN: 1-55111-307-4
DATE/EDITION: 1990 2nd ed.
COST: \$15.00

Online Course Package:

ELECTRONIC TEXTS:

AUTHOR: Archibald, Malcome
CHAPTER TITLE: Out of the Central Sea
BOOK TITLE: Across the pond; Chapters from the Atlantic
DATE: 2001
PAGES: 1 – 9

AUTHOR: Cordingly, David
CHAPER TITLES: Introduction/ Women and Water
BOOK TITLE: Women Sailors and Sailor's Women
DATE: 2001
PAGES: 154-170

AUTHORS: Creighton, Margaret and Lisa Norling
CHAPTER TITLE: Liberty Beneath the Jolly Roger
BOOK TITLE: Iron Men, Wooden Women; Gender and Seafaring in the Atlantic World 1700 - 1920
DATE: 1996
PAGES: 1 -33

AUTHOR: Foulke, Robert
CHAPTER TITLE: The Literature of Voyaging
BOOK TITLE: Literature and Lore of the Sea (ed. Patricia Ann Carlson)
DATE: 1986
PAGES: 1 – 13

AUTHOR: Gomez, Michael A.
CHAPTER TITLE: Transatlantic Moment
BOOK TITLE: Reversing Sail A History of the African Diaspora
DATE: 2005
PAGES: 59 -81

AUTHOR: Goodall, H. L
CHAPTER TITLE: Representing Ethnographic Experiences
BOOK TITLE: Writing the New Ethnography
DATE: 2000
PAGES: 83 – 130

AUTHOR: Gottschalk, Jack A & Brian P. Flanagan
CHAPTER TITLE: Introduction / The Evolution of Piracy/ Pirates and the Law/ Pirates, Terrorists, and Environmental Horrors
BOOK TITLE: Jolly Roger with an Uzi
DATE: 2000
PAGES: ix-42/ 109-223

AUTHOR: London, Jack
CHAPTER TITLES: Story of a Typhoon Off the Coast of Japan/ The Water Baby
BOOK TITLE: Short Stories of Jack London (Ed Labour, Earl
DATE: 1990
PAGES: 712-721

AUTHOR: McCall, Dan
CHAPTER TITLE: Benito Cereno
BOOK TITLE: Melville's Short Novels
DATE: 2002
PAGES: 34 – 102

AUTHOR: Mak, J. N.
CHAPTER TITLE: The New Threat of Maritime Terrorism
BOOK TITLE: Violence at Sea; Piracy in the Age of Global Terrorism
DATE: 2007
PAGES: 241- 258

AUTHOR: Smallwood, Stephanie E.
CHAPTER TITLES: The Living Dead Aboard the Slave Ship at Sea
BOOK TITLE: Saltwater Slavery
DATE: 2007
PAGES: 122-152

AUTHOR: STEVENS, HENRIK
CHAPTER TITLE; The Port of Kobe
BOOK TITLE: The Institutional Position of Seaports
DATE: 1999
Pages: 43-55

AUTHOR: Unger, Richard W.
CHAPTER TITLE: Theoretical and Practical Origins of Methods of Navigation
BOOK TITLE: Maritime History Volume 1: The Age of Discovery (ed: John B. Hattendorf)
DATE: 1996
PAGES: 21 – 33

FILMS:

Required:
TITLE: Representation and the Media
AUTHORS: Hall, Stuart & Sut, Jhally
PRODUCERS: Media Education Foundation
DATE: 2002
ISBN: 189352163X

Online Resources:
Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) - has great wealth of info about contemporary sailors - many publications/pdfs available for download
<http://www.sirc.cf.ac.uk/>