

SAST 1169
Merchants, Saints, Slave & Sojourners:
The Worlds of the Indian Ocean

Dr. Ian Petrie
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MW 3:30-5pm

Fall 2022 Course Prospectus

Hello! Thank you for your potential interest in this class. Don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions.

The previous syllabus included below will give you a sense of the chronology and types of materials the course examines. A biographical approach recurs across the syllabus and will inform one of the major assignments.

A couple of broad points:

- Everyone is welcome in this class & no prior knowledge is assumed. Students from a wide range of majors in the College, SEAS, Nursing and Wharton have all succeeded in this class.
- Typically, we will read chapters/articles for the Monday class, and do in-class work on Wednesday that does not require preparation (e.g. examining short primary sources and images; working on research projects; visiting special collections in the library and the Penn Museum).
- How will we be teaching and learning in fall 2022? Your guess is as good as mine! Right now, I assume we will be in person, perhaps with masks required, but I will adapt to whatever conditions and Penn policies dictate. (I last taught this class in fall 2020 as a Zoom class, and it worked reasonably well.) I will emphasize flexibility and empathy, as we work together in an ongoing pandemic.
- I will be revising the syllabus over the summer. My current thinking for the major assignments envisions two digital projects using the platform Scalar, in which everyone would have their own individual piece of a class endeavor. The first, pertaining to the early modern period (ca. 1500-1800) would be a "port-folio", an examination of a particular Indian Ocean port. Each student will choose one port, and collectively the class will provide a tour of various ports. The second, pertaining to the 19th and 20th centuries, would be a collective biography of political & cultural activists across the Indian Ocean in the context of imperialism and decolonization. Both would involve manageable but meaningful historical research, with an eye to presenting the history of the Indian Ocean digitally, with effective use of visuals and tools like timelines and StoryMaps.

SAST 169 / ANTH 169 / NELC 189
Merchants, Saints, Slaves and Sojourners: The Worlds of the Indian Ocean

Dr. Ian Petrie
Fall 2016
TR 1:30-2:50
Museum 328

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Course Description

Do oceans serve to divide and demarcate distinct cultures and regions? Or do they facilitate exchange, connection and cosmopolitanism? This course will explore the manner in which the Indian Ocean has played both roles throughout history, and how the nature of those divisions and connections has changed over time from the ancient to the modern world. We will reconstruct the intertwined mercantile, religious and kinship networks that spanned the Indian Ocean world, across the Middle East, East Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and China, illuminating the histories of Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam, while also considering the role of imperial political formations, from Rome to Britain. Throughout the semester we will seek to understand the Indian Ocean through the people who lived and worked in its milieu –traders, brokers, sailors, pirates, prisoners and slaves. Course materials will draw on a variety of disciplines (anthropology, archaeology, material culture, religious studies) to construct the cultural, economic, and environmental history of the Indian Ocean.

Course fulfills Cross-Cultural Analysis requirement

Objectives

- To provide students with a framework for exploring histories of interconnection from East Asia to East Africa – while at the same time encouraging them to reflect critically on the strengths and weaknesses of this framework
- To promote students' critical engagement with both scholarship and primary source materials (both textual and non-textual)
- To accommodate individual student interests while also fostering collaborative projects for the class and instructor

Required Readings

Clare Anderson, *Subaltern Lives* (Cambridge, 2012) - available for purchase at Penn Book Center (34th and Sansom) or on reserve at Rosengarten, in the basement of Van Pelt Library (call # HN683.5 .A654).

If you do plan to buy the book, please purchase it from Penn Book Center. Sustaining an independent book store on campus is good for the community - I'll happily pay the difference between their price and what you find online. I'm serious. Take me up on it.

All other readings will be available as PDFs on the Canvas site.

Schedule

	<i>Topics & Readings (to be completed for class)</i>	<i>Deadlines</i>
Week 1	Studying Seas / Ancient Connections	
T Aug 30	Introductions	
R Sept 1	Michael Pearson, "Studying the Indian Ocean World: Problems and Opportunities," in H.P. Ray and E. Alpers, eds., <i>Cross Currents and Community Networks</i> (New Delhi, 2007), pp. 15-33. Andrew Lawler, "A Forgotten Corridor Rediscovered," <i>Science</i> 328 (May 27, 2010), 1092-97.	
Week 2	Ancient Connections	
T Sept 6	E.H. Seland, "Networks and Social Cohesion in Ancient Indian Ocean Trade: Geography, Ethnicity, Religion." <i>Journal of Global History</i> 8, 3 (2013): 373–390. Grant Parker, "Ex Oriente Luxuria: Indian Commodities and Roman Experience." <i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i> 45, 1 (2002): 40–95.	Response Paper Option 1 due in class
R Sept 8	Tansen Sen, "The Travel Records of Chinese Pilgrims Faxian, Xuanzang, and Yijing," <i>Education About Asia</i> 11 (2006): 24-33.	
Week 3	An Islamic Sea?	
T Sept 13	Michael Pearson, "Islamic trade, shipping, port-states and merchant communities in the Indian Ocean, seventh to sixteenth centuries" in <i>The New Cambridge History of Islam</i> (Cambridge, 2010), 3: 317-65 Sebastian Prange, "Like Banners on the Sea: Muslim Trade Networks and Islamization in Malabar and Maritime Southeast Asia," in R.M. Feener and T. Sevea, eds., <i>Islamic Connections: Muslim Societies in South and Southeast Asia</i> (Singapore, 2009), pp. 25-47. Russell Jones, "Ten Conversion Myths from Indonesia," in N. Levtzion, ed., <i>Conversion to Islam</i> (New York, 1979), pp. 129-58.	Response Paper Option 2 due in class
R Sept 15	B.G. Martin, "Arab Migrations to East Africa in Medieval Times," <i>Intl J. Afr. Historical Studies</i> 7 (1974): 367-90.	

Week 4	Material Culture	
T Sept 20	Neil MacGregor, <i>A History of the World in 100 Objects</i> (New York, 2011), pp. xv-xxvi, 379-90. Michael Flecker, "A Ninth-Century AD Arab or Indian Shipwreck in Indonesia: First Evidence for Direct Trade with China," <i>World Archaeology</i> 32 (2001): 335-54. Adria LaViolette, "Swahili Cosmopolitanism in Africa and the Indian Ocean World, A.D. 600-1500," <i>Archaeologies</i> 4 (2008): 24-49	Response Paper Option 3 due in class
R Sept 22	Tools for research & presentation	
Week 5	Material Culture / Traders	
T Sept 27	Meet in Object Study Room, ground floor, Museum	
R Sept 29	Stewart Gordon, "Pepper and Partnerships: Abraham bin Yiju, 1120-1160 CE" in <i>When Asia Was the World</i> (Boston, 2008), pp. 75-96. S.D. Goitein, "Portrait of a Medieval India Trader: Three Letters from the Cairo Geniza," <i>Bull. School of Oriental & African Studies</i> 50 (1987): 449-64. Sebouh Aslanian, "The Salt in a Merchant's Letter: The Culture of Julfan Correspondence in the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean," <i>Journal of World History</i> 19 (2008): 127-88.	Response Paper Option 4 due in class
Week 6	Early Modern Empires: The Ming Maritime Moment	
T Oct 4	Listen to "The Ming Voyages" from the BBC Radio 4 program <i>In Our Time</i> : http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b015p8c2 Geoff Wade, "The Zheng He Voyages: A reassessment" repr. in Wade, ed., <i>China and Southeast Asia</i> (London, 2009), 2: 118-41.	
R Oct 6	FALL BREAK! (no class)	Last day to drop M 10/10
Week 7	Early Modern Empires: The Portuguese & the Ottomans	
T Oct 11	Chandra Richard de Silva, "Beyond the Cape: The Portuguese encounter with the peoples of South Asia," in S. Schwartz, ed., <i>Implicit Understandings</i> (Cambridge, 1994), pp. 295-322. Giancarlo Casale, "Global Politics in the 1580s: One Canal, Twenty Thousand Cannibals, and an Ottoman Plot to Rule the World," <i>Journal of World History</i> 18 (2007): 267-96	
R Oct 13	Ashin Das Gupta, "Indian Merchants and Trade in the Indian Ocean," repr. in <i>The World of the Indian Ocean Merchant</i> (New Delhi, 2001), pp. 59-87. Choosing and researching a pre-modern port	

Week 8	The Slave Trade / Rare Books	
T Oct 18	<p>Gwynn Campbell, "Slavery and the Trans-Indian Ocean World Slave Trade: A Historical Outline," in H.P. Ray and E. Alpers, eds., <i>Cross Currents and Community Networks</i> (New Delhi, 2007), pp. 286-305.</p> <p>Edward Alpers, "The Other Middle Passage: The African Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean," in E. Christopher et al., eds., <i>Many Middle Passages: Forced Migration and the Making of the Modern World</i> (Berkeley, 2007), pp. 20-38.</p> <p>Kerry Ward, "'Tavern of the Seas'? The Cape of Good Hope as an Oceanic Crossroads during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in J. Bentley et al., eds., <i>Seascapes: Maritime Histories, Littoral Cultures and Transoceanic Exchanges</i> (Honolulu, 2007), pp. 137-52.</p>	
R Oct 20	Class meets in Lea Library, 6 th floor Van Pelt Library	
Week 9	Port-folios	
T Oct 25	Presentation of port-folios	Port-folios
R Oct 27	Presentation of port-folios	
Week 10	Subaltern Lives	
T Nov 1	Clare Anderson, <i>Subaltern Lives: Biographies of Colonialism in the Indian Ocean World, 1790-1920</i> (Cambridge, 2012), chs. 1-4.	
R Nov 3	Anderson, chs. 5-7.	

Week 11	Locating Lascars	
T Nov 8	<p>Michael H. Fisher, "Working across the Seas: Indian Maritime Labourers in India, Britain, and in Between, 1600-1857." <i>International Review of Social History</i> 51 (2006): 21-45.</p> <p>Amitav Ghosh, "Of Fanas and Forecastles: The Indian Ocean and Some Lost Languages of the Age of Sail." <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> 43, no. 25 (June 21, 2008): 56-62. Sample case from Old Bailey</p> <p>James W. Frey, "Lascars, the Thames Police Court and the Old Bailey: crime on the high seas and the London courts, 1852-8," <i>Journal for Maritime Research</i> 16 (2004): 196-211.</p>	Last day to withdraw: F Nov 11
R Nov 10	Working with Old Bailey cases	
Week 12	Migration in the Age of Empire	
T Nov 15	<p>Nile Green, "Africa in Indian Ink: Urdu Articulations of Indian Settlement in East Africa," <i>Journal of African History</i> 53 (2012): 131-50.</p> <p>Sunil Amrith, "Tamil Diasporas across the Bay of Bengal," <i>American Historical Review</i> 114 (2009): 547-72.</p>	
R Nov 17	Working on Old Bailey cases	
Week 13	Locating Lascars	
T Nov 22	Examining what we did with the cases!	
R Nov 24	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Week 14	Islam Across the Indian Ocean in the Age of Empire	
T Nov 29	<p>Nile Green, "Islam for the Indentured Indian: A Muslim Missionary in Colonial South Africa," <i>Bull. School of Oriental & African Studies</i> 71 (2008): 529-53.</p> <p>Anne K. Bang, "Authority and Piety, Writing and Print: A Preliminary Study of the Circulation of Islamic Texts in Late 19th- and Early 20th-Century Zanzibar," <i>Africa</i> 81 (2011): 89-107.</p>	
R Dec 1	Work on object research	

Week 15	Object Presentations	
T Dec 6	Object Presentations	
R Dec 8	Object Presentations	
	** Object Papers due 12/22**	

Assessments

Response Paper (2pgs; due 9/6, 9/13, 9/20 or 9/27)	5%
StoryMap to accompany an article	5%
Participation (weeks 2-5)	7.5%
Participation (weeks 6-16)	17.5%
Port-folio presentation (10/27)	20%
Lascar Case Analysis	20%
Object Lesson (Presentation & Paper; 4-5 pgs.) (12/6 or 12/8; 12/22)	25%

Attendance and Participation

There is no attendance policy in this course. It is my view that the material covered in presentations and class discussions will be important to your understanding of, and hence success in, the course. *Do note that participation counts for 25% of your final grade.* This is a discussion-based class and by participation I primarily mean informed and constructive contribution to class discussions; attendance is a necessary precondition to participation but does not in itself earn credit for participation. *Participation is cumulative – you start at zero and accrue credit.* A supplemental source of participation credit is the submission of notes made on the readings and/or on class presentations and discussions. Such notes *for a given class* may be submitted at the end of *that* class (excluding a day on which you are handing in a response paper) a maximum of *two times* in weeks 2-5 and *five times* in weeks 6-14). These will not be graded as such, but will be noted on a $\sqrt{-}$ / $\sqrt{}$ / $\sqrt{+}$ scale. An early participation grade will be assessed after week 5 to give you an indication of your performance, leaving ample time for improvement if needed.

Grading

Grades will be assigned as follows, the relationship between letter grade and GPA conforming to College policy:

A	Outstanding	(93- ; 4.0)
A-		(90-92; 3.7)
B+		(87-89; 3.3)
B	Good	(83-86; 3.0)
B-		(80-82; 2.7)
C+		(77-79; 2.3)
C	Fair	(73-76; 2.0)
C-		(70-72; 1.7)
D+		(67-69; 1.3)
D	Passing	(63-66; 1.0)
F	Failure	(< 63; 0.0)

The “24 hour rule” applies –I will not discuss any grade until 24 hours after the assessment has been returned, permitting you sufficient time to read and reflect upon my comments and re-read your own work in light of them. If you wish to appeal a grade, you must submit a written statement to me explaining your grounds for such an appeal (a hard copy, not an email). A re-grade may result in a grade going up or down. Grades will be posted on Blackboard, along with a running total. At the end of the semester, you will receive your final grade after grades have been posted – please do not contact me for your grade.

Academic Integrity

It is your responsibility to be familiar with the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this course, and all instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for adjudication. A useful page of guidelines and examples may be found at:

<http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/PORT/documentation/>

(Particularly take note of the section on paraphrasing, which features an infamous instance of an author plagiarizing a Penn historian.)

Special Needs and Support Services

In compliance with Penn policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a documented disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except under unusual circumstances, to arrange reasonable accommodations. Students must register with Student Disabilities Services (SDS; Stouffer Commons, Ste 300, 215-573-9235) for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations

Communications

Please feel free to contact me throughout the semester with your questions. I will only discuss substantive issues (like a paper grade) in person, so in that case, please email to set up an appointment. I am on campus every day and would of course be happy to speak with you.