

PIRATES, PILGRIMS AND POETS
GLOBALIZATION IN INDIAN OCEAN HISTORY

Globalization is a phenomenon that seems to be occurring everywhere around us and yet seems to have no origin. Is the world really flat? Or have certain places, people and things become better connected than others? This course seeks to answer these questions by exploring when and why certain places became better connected, people became more mobile and things gained wider circulation. Since the Indus valley civilization started trading with the Mesopotamian civilization four millennia ago, the Indian Ocean has been an important space of economic and cultural exchange. Technological innovations were pioneered within the Indian Ocean littoral and others were imported from other parts of the world. We can then see where and how ideas, commodities and people became incorporated into the Indian Ocean world and those which were resisted.

The readings and assignments in the course are designed to make you think about how economics, politics, culture interact to make connections stable or fragile. Each week you will be asked to submit one criticism and one question on the weeks' readings by 8pm the evening before the seminar meets. These can be as little as a sentence and not more than a brief paragraph. You should clearly state a criticism of the arguments put forth in one or more of the week's readings. And you should ask a question which either connects different readings or expands upon some facet of the week's readings. This is meant to facilitate a high level of class discussion rather than add to your workload, so long and involved comments are discouraged: save such thoughts for the seminar discussion.

The course is divided into four thematic sections: technology and exchange, politics and space, people and mobility, and culture and representation. Each theme will cover three to four weeks and end with a writing assignment. You may skip one of the four assignments or drop your lowest grade.

Weeks 1-4: Technology and Exchange

Assignment: Pick two objects (i.e. the dhow, pepper, the astrolabe, shipping container etc.) and compare how they contributed to the greater inter-connection of the Indian Ocean. Discuss in particular what were the socio-political obstacles or facilitators which made these objects so powerful. (5-7 pages)

Weeks 5-7: Politics and Space

Assignment: Draw a map of the Indian Ocean. Pick a particular time and person who is making the map and consider carefully, what they would represent on the map, and how they would represent these different things. Explain in 3-5 pages why you chose to draw certain things and not others and why you chose to represent them in these particular ways.

Weeks 8-10: People and Mobility

Assignment: Write a Captains' Log, or a journal. Describe the difficulties and joys of the journey, as if you were a historical traveler on the Indian Ocean. Think in particular about how they view other people and other landscapes as well as how a person's perspective shifts over the course of a journey. (5-7 pages)

Weeks 11-13: Culture and Representation

Assignment: Write a detailed analysis of a work of art, this could be a close reading of selections of poetry, short stories or a novel, or an analysis of several pieces of artwork or a film. Discuss in particular how oceanic spaces, different cultures and peoples are represented. Pay close attention to language or artistic technique. A list of films, artwork and literature will be available for you to use or you can use other works after confirmation with the course instructor. (5-7 pages)

Evaluation Criteria

Class Participation:	25%
3 Writing assignments	75% (25% each)

COURSE READINGS

Technology and Exchange

Week 1 – Shipping

John Law, “On the Methods of Long Distance Control: Vessels, Navigation and the Portuguese Route to India” in John Law (ed), *Power, Action and Belief: A New Sociology of Knowledge?* pp. 234-263.

J. Forbes Munro, “Shipping Subsidies and Railway Guarantees: William MacKinnon, Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean” *Journal of African History* Vol. 28, No. 2 (1987), pp. 209-230.

Marc Levinson, *The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger*, Ch. 9 Vietnam.

Week 2 – Sailing and Smuggling

Eric Tagliacozzo, *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier 1865-1915*, Ch. 13 Contraband and the Junk Kim Ban An.

Erik Gilbert, *Dhows and the Colonial Economy in Zanzibar, 1860-1970*, Ch. 4 Cloves, Dhows and Steamers: the Twentieth Century Struggle between the Official and Unofficial Economies in Zanzibar.

Week 3 – Commodities and Consumers

Pedro Machado, “Awash in a Sea of Cloth: Gujurat, Africa and the Western Indian Ocean, 1300-1800” in Prasanna Parthasarathi and Giorgio Riello (eds.), *South Asian Textiles in the World*

Jeremy Prestholdt, “On the Global Repercussions of East African Consumerism” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 109, No. 3 (2004), pp 755-782.

Week 4 - Finance

Christopher J. Baker “Economic Reorganization and the Slump in South and Southeast Asia” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 23, No. 3 (July 1981), pp. 325-349.

Charles Schaeffer “Selling at a Wash:” Competition and the Indian Merchant Community in Aden Crown Colony” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* Vol. 19, No. 2 (Fall 1999), pp.16-23.

Politics and Space

Week 5 - Pirates

Lakshmi Subramanian "Of Pirates and Potentates: Maritime Jurisdiction and the Construction of Piracy in the Indian Ocean" *UTS Review*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (November 2000), pp 14-23.

Charles Davies, *The Blood Red Arab Flag: An Investigation into Qasimi Piracy, 1727-1820*, Part B. Perspectives, pp. 129-164.

Jay Bahadur *The Pirates of Somalia: Inside their Hidden World*, Chapter 4, Of Pirates, Coast Guards and Fishermen.

Week 6 – Empires

Ashin Das Gupta, *Malabar in Asian Trade 1740-1800*, Ch. 2 The Monopoly of Travancore.

Thomas Metcalf, *Imperial Connections: India in the Indian Ocean Arena, 1860-1920*, Chapter 3 Projecting Power: The Indian Army Overseas.

Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geobody of a Nation*, Ch.1 Indigenous Space, Ancient Maps and Ch. 2 The Coming of a New Geography, pp.20-61.

Week 7 – Third World Rebels

Sugata Bose *His Majesty's Opponent: Shubhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle Against Empire*, Ch. 8 Roads to Delhi, pp. 238-303.

Isabel Hofmeyer "Gandhi's Printing Press: Indian Ocean Print Cultures and Cosmopolitanisms" in Kris Manjappa and Sugata Bose (eds.) *Cosmopolitan Thought Zones: South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas*.

James Brennan, "Radio Cairo and the Decolonization in East Africa, 1953-64" in Christopher Lee (ed.), *Making a World After Empire: The Bandung Moment and its Political Afterlives*.

People and Mobility

Week 8 – Slaves

Abdul Sheriff *Slaves, Spices & Ivory in Zanzibar: Integration of an East African Commercial empire into the World Economy, 1770-1873*, Chapter 2, The Transformation of the Slave Sector, p33-76.

Indrani Chatterjee "Abolition by Denial: The South Asian Example" in Gwyn Campbell (ed.) *Abolition and its Aftermath in the Indian Ocean, Africa and Asia*, pp. 137-153.

Janet Ewald, "Crossers of the Sea: Slaves, Freedmen, and other Migrants in the Northwestern Indian Ocean, c. 1750-1914" *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 105, No. 1 (Feb., 2000), pp. 69-91.

Week 9 – Coolies

Clare Anderson "Convicts and Coolies: Rethinking Indentured Labour in the Nineteenth Century" *Slavery & Abolition* Vol. 30, No. 1, (March 2009) pp.93-109

Marina Carter and Khal Torabully *Coolitude* "Thrice Victimized: Casting the Coolie," pp. 45-87

Richard Allen, *Slaves, Freedmen and Indentured Labourers in Colonial Mauritius*, Ch. 6 The Regeneration of Agricultural Prosperity: Indian Immigrants and their descendants, 1834-1936, pp. 136-171.

Week 10 - Pilgrims

Mike Miller “Pilgrim’s Progress: The Business of the Hajj” *Past & Present* Vol. 191, (May 2006), pp. 189-228

Michael Christopher Low “empire and the Hajj: Pilgrims Plagues, and Pan-Islam under British Surveillance, 1865-1908” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 2 (2008), pp. 269-290.

Abderrahmane El Moudden, “The Ambivalence of *Rihla*: Community integration and Self-Definition in Moroccan Travel Accounts, 1300-1800,” in Dale Eickelman and James Piscatori (eds.) *Muslim Travelers: Pilgrimage, Migration and the Religious Imagination*.

Culture and Representation

Week 11 - Intellectuals

Mark Ravinder Frost, “In Search of Cosmopolitan Discourse: A Historical Journey Across the Indian Ocean from Singapore to South Africa, 1870–1920” in Pamila Gupta, Isabel Hofmeyer and Michael Pearson (eds.) *Eyes Across the Water: Navigating the Indian Ocean*

Sugata Bose *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire*, Ch. 7 A Different Universalism? Oceanic Voyages of a Poet as Pilgrim, pp. 233-271

Kris Manjapra “The Communist Ecumene and Transcolonial Recognition” in Kris Manjapra and Sugata Bose (eds.) *Cosmopolitan Thought Zones: South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas*.

Week 12 - Literature

Ronit Frenkel “A History of Cultural Negation in Indian Ocean Literature: Julia Blackburn’s *The Book of Color* and Lindsey Collen’s *The Rape of Sita*” and Amitav Ghosh “Of Fanás and Forecastles: The Indian Ocean and Some Lost Languages of the Age of Sail” in Pamila Gupta, Isabel Hofmeyer and Michael Pearson (eds.) *Eyes Across the Water: Navigating the Indian Ocean*

Marina Carter and Khal Torabully *Coolitude* “Poetic and Critical Texts of Coolitude,” pp. 217-226

Week 13 - Fiction

Amitav Ghosh, *River of Smoke*, Selections

Elmore Leonard, *Djibouti: A Novel*, Selections