History 1716: Indian Ocean World  
University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2010

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This course explores the Indian Ocean World. In many ways, the Indian Ocean region was central to world history, housing the major economic and political powers of the world as well as much of the population, wealth, and desired goods. During the course, we will examine the trade, travel, and cultural exchange of peoples and governments who operated in an interconnected world from the east coast of Africa to the city-states of India and Southeast Asia to Chinese empires. We will pay particular attention to the role of Islam, and how Muslims helped to forge a system of cultural and economic exchange. We will also explore the entry of Europeans into this system, investigating the effects of this new actor. By examining issues ranging from trade, religion, violence, piracy, disease, slavery, drugs, and imperialism, the course argues for the strength of local polities and economies even during an age of European expansion. Further, it stresses that by examining these areas from the perspective of world history we can not only compare different places and societies but also view certain events and phenomena in a more natural setting.

**Course Structure:**

**Lectures:** The class will be split into lectures and discussion. Questions are welcome during lecture. In addition, each lecture will set aside a portion of time to discuss the day’s material. Often, we will spend individual classes dedicated to discussing the issues raised in the reading. In such cases, I will inform you ahead of time. Please arrive promptly for class, prepared to begin, and with your cell phone off.

**Reading:** In this course, you must keep up on the readings, most of which are designed to complement rather than replace lectures. Some of you will find that doing the reading before lecture will offer greater context and understanding; others that you prefer the information of lecture first. All the reading must be done before a class discussion.

Regardless, read actively. As with your entire college education, the more intellectual energy you put into the course and assignments, the more you will get out of it. Merely going through the exercises and readings perfunctorily, without thinking about the text and yourself, will be boring and offer you little. Instead, find time to think and engage with the reading and assignments.

**Assignments:**

**Exams:** There will be two exams in this course. Format to be announced.
**Essays:** To help develop your writing skills, you will have two short essays on the reading, one in each part of the course. The first essay will be an analysis of the primary sources and what they reveal about the Indian Ocean World as well as the author. The second essay will be an examination of a popular history. Here, you will analyze the book and what it offers to our historical understanding, but equally importantly identify and explain the work’s limitations and assumptions. Remember, you are not summarizing the reading but rather offering a critique of the ideas raised. Both essays need to be uploaded into SafeAssign as well as handing in a hardcopy to me.

**Participation:** In addition to discussion, there will also be in class writing assignments, group exercises, and debates that you will be expected to participate in. This is a chance for you to continue to improve your critical skills as well as demonstrate your mastery of the course material.

**Grades**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>20</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Analysis 1</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Analysis 2</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Final</td>
<td>25</td>
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**Course Policies:**

**Attendance Policy:** Regular and prompt attendance is required. More than three absences will result in a reduction of your final grade. Arriving late and leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

**Technology:** Laptops for taking notes are welcome. However, any technology found to be disruptive to class, either to myself or fellow students, will be prohibited. Silence your cell phones and avoid texting during class. NO cell phones or laptops will be allowed during quizzes or exams.

**Policy on “Late Withdrawals”:** In accordance with university policy, Appeals for Late Withdrawal will be approved ONLY in cases of medical emergency and similar crises.

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. **Any student found guilty will FAIL the entire course.** Students should familiarize themselves with the published policies accessible [here](http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html)

**Note on Disabilities:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.
**Blackboard:** Blackboard™ is an online software tool that facilitates interaction and communication among all members of the class. Please familiarize yourself with Blackboard as soon as possible by visiting the following portal: [http://courseweb.pitt.edu](http://courseweb.pitt.edu). Help with Blackboard is available 24 hours a day from the technology help desk. Call them at 412-624-4357, or visit them online at [http://technology.pitt.edu/tech_help.html](http://technology.pitt.edu/tech_help.html). In this course we will use Courseweb to:

- Post the syllabus
- Post document readings
- Announce any changes

**Texts:** The books for this course are grouped. All texts are on reserve at the library, and can be purchased in the campus store, online, and in your local bookstore.

**Required**
- Bose, Sugata. *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire*
- Ghosh, Amitav. *In an Antique Land*

**Textbook:** Most of you will find this book helpful to consult
- Pearson, MN. *The Indian Ocean World*

**Book of Choice:** You must choose *one* popular history to read and analyze. If not one of these two choices, you must clear the book with me.
1) Corn, *The Scents of Eden: A History of the Spice Trade*
2) Milton, *Nathaniel’s Nutmeg*

**Recommended:**
- Dreyer, Zheng He: *China and the Ocean in the Early Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433.*

**Other Readings:** Additional readings will be drawn from the following works and are marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus for easy identification. These readings are available on Blackboard as PDF Files.

**Week 1: Introduction**
January 6th: Overview of Course, Maritime fields, World History
Fable of the Rat: [http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200504/the.fable.of.the.rat.htm](http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200504/the.fable.of.the.rat.htm)

**Week 2: Sailing the Monsoon**
Jan 11th: The Basics
Jan 13th: Port Cities and Trade Systems
Debate: Myths
Read: Pearson, *The Indian Ocean World*, 1-61
Abu-Lughod, 251-260
*Sinbad
*Shariyar, *The Book of the Wonders of India.*
Week 3: Islam  
Jan 18th   Islam and a Trading system  
Jan 20th   The Hajj  
Debate:   Ibn Battuta  
*Ibn Battuta*  

http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200504/the.traveler.ibn.battuta.htm

Week 4: East Africa  
Jan 25th   East Africa: Swahili coast  
Jan 27th   Zanzibar  
Read:   *East Africa Docs*  

http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200504/the.navigator.ahmad.ibn.majid.htm

Week 5: Indian City-states  
Feb 1st   India City States  
Feb 3rd   Debate on Ghosh  
Read:   Finish Ghosh, *In an Antique Land*, 241-353  

Week 6: Land Below the Winds  
Feb 8th   Southeast Asia  
Feb 10th   Melaka and Maritime China  
Read:   *Tome Pires*  
*Ma Huan*  
Begin Dreyer, *Zheng He*  

Week 7: Maritime China: Treasure Fleets and the Role of the Chinese State  
Feb 15th   Chinese Treasure Fleets  
Feb 17th   Chinese Treasure Fleets Debate  
Read:   Dreyer, *Zheng He*  

http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200504/the.admiral.zheng.he.htm

**Essays Due February 15th**

Week 8: European Entry  
Feb 22nd   Portuguese Entry  
Feb 24th   Portuguese Empire  
Read:   Pearson, *The Indian Ocean World*, 113-158  
*Garcia da Orta, Colloquies on the Simples and Drugs of India*  

http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200504/the.coming.of.the.portuguese.htm

Week 9: Violence in the System  
March 1st   Midterm Exam
March 3rd  Ottoman Power and European Piracy

Week 10: SPRING BREAK
Read: Begin: Popular History Book

WEEK 11: Stock Companies and the Spice Trade
March 15th  Dutch East India Company
March 17th  Batavia
        Selections from *Taylor, Social World of Batavia
        --Popular History Book--

Week 12: Slaves and Migrants
March 22nd  Indian Ocean Slave Trade
March 24th  Migration and Creolization
Read: *Vaughan, Creating the Creole Island

Week 13: Defining Empire
March 29th  The New Empire: English East India Company and Britain
March 31st  Defining Peoples: Race and the Environment
        Bose, A Hundred Horizons, 1-71
Second Essay Due: March 31st

Week 14: Environment
April 5th  Degradation and Extinctions
April 7th  Environmental Disasters and Debate
Read: *Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocausits: El Nino Families and the

Week 15: Imperialism
April 12th  Imperialism
April 14th  Debate on Race, Gender, Citizenship
        *Stoler, Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power.
        Bose, A Hundred Horizons 72-192

Week 16: The Ocean Remains
April 19th  Imperial Resistance
April 21st  Conclusion
Read: Bose, A Hundred Horizons, 193-284