

**Hist 402 W :                      Senior Seminar in History**  
Maritime Historiography

Preliminary Syllabus

Spring 2013 –  
CRN: 21911:                      Tuesday    19:10-21:50 (BAL 2062)

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Office Hours:            Tuesdays 12:30 – 13:30 and by appointment

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**Course Description**

Although maritime history is mainly a comparable young historical (sub-) discipline, first scientific publications on this subject date in early modern period. Anyhow scholarly/scientific maritime history research was rather a topic for other disciplines than history itself.

During the class classic maritime history publications will be discussed (mainly 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century), especially in the context of research methods applied to the subject and the question why certain groups were interested in maritime history. Furthermore it will be analyzed how maritime history became an independent historical (sub-) discipline and continued at the same time as an interdisciplinary field of research.

Finally the relation between maritime history and neighboring disciplines like marine archaeology or world history will be discussed.

Although the class will primarily focus on maritime history, the class is really about the development of historical research as a scholarly discipline. Means maritime history will serve mainly as an example for the development of historical research and ideas at large.

Intensive reading of historical key studies and methodological publications is mandatory for this class, basic knowledge of archaeological methods, ship-construction, and anthropologic research are highly welcome.

**This syllabus outlines your responsibilities for completing the course. Enrollment in the class indicates your understanding and acceptance of these responsibilities.**

**Required reading materials**

Most of the texts required for this class may not be available in the bookstore or the library. (There is no mandatory textbook for the class. Readings will be assigned in class.)

Books are available via inter-library-loan and most articles are accessible via internet data-bases. Other texts will be provided via e-mail or as handouts.

The mandatory main texts for the class are:

**- See Annex I**

## Grading

- Class attendance and discussion	30%
- Book Review	10%
- Research assignments (2)	30%
- Final discussion paper	30%
(20% written final paper / 10% devoted to oral presentation in class and final examination)	
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	100%

1. Class attendance and discussion are a very important part of this class. Much of the class is based on discussion. If you don't come to class, you can't discuss. If you don't come to class, your grade will suffer. This portion of your grade is worth 30%.

### 2. Book review

One example of a typical maritime history research publication will be reviewed by each student. The book review will be presented in class and completed with a three page written review, due at presentation of the review in class. Books to be reviewed will be selected by the student during the second/third week of class. The book review equals 10% of the final grade.

### 3. Research Assignments: Details to be announced later.

- For week six a research assignment is scheduled that will deal with the maritime heritage of the Hampton Roads region. The research assignment will be completed with a five page essay that is due on **Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 2013**.
- For week nine a research assignment is scheduled that will explore new methodology of historical research in the context of maritime history. The assignment will be mainly based on the internet and completed with a five page report that is due on **March 26<sup>th</sup> 2013**.

The two research assignments equal together 30% of your grade.

### 4. Final discussion paper

This is a 15 page essay on a specific topic of maritime historiography.

Topics will be finalized during the third/fourth session of the class.

Oral presentations of the final papers will be during the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> session followed by an oral examination during the exam period.

The final discussion paper is due **April 9<sup>th</sup> 2013** in class.

The final discussion paper equals 30% of your grade

(20% written final paper / 10% devoted to oral presentation in class and final examination)

If you fail to present your paper in class or fail to hand in the written version of the final paper, the total grade for your final paper will automatically become 0/100 (F)

## Class Rules

1. All late papers etc. will be docked one letter grade for every day they are late. No make-ups will be given for missing the presentations of the book review and final paper in-class.

If you have a conflict with these dates, you must discuss the conflict with Dr. Heidbrink in advance of the presentations.

2. All issues related to grades will be discussed with Dr. Heidbrink in his office and not in class.

3. Any person who plagiarizes in HIST 402 will fail the class.

**Plagiarism** is a serious offense and will not be overlooked by Dr. Heidbrink. All students are expected to abide by Old Dominion University's Honor Code. Students who **cheat** and/or **plagiarize** on any assignment will **fail** the class. To plagiarize means to take more than three words from a text and not credit the source. If you take more than three words from a text, you **must** put the borrowed words in quotes and credit your source. If you borrow an idea from another author but change the words, you must also credit your source with an endnote or footnote. **It is also plagiarism to type a long quote into a paper, change a few words in the quote, include a citation but not use quotation marks around the borrowed words.**

Old Dominion University's Honor Code is as follows: "We, the students of Old Dominion University, aspire to be honest and forthright in our academic endeavors. Therefore, we will practice honesty and integrity and be guided by the tenets of the Monarch Creed. We will meet the challenge to be beyond reproach in our actions and our words. We will conduct ourselves in a manner that commands the dignity and respect that we also give to others." (*Old Dominion University Undergraduate Catalog, 2006-2008, 14*).

The University also has a Code of Student Conduct. It explains that students will be subject to disciplinary action for a variety of reasons that include: "Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism and all forms of academic cheating, and failure to report known violations of the honor pledge." (*ODU Catalog, 2006-2008, 14*).

Please review the University Honor Code, Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures to failure to abide by these Codes on pages 14-18 of the *ODU Catalog, 2006-2008*.

**Plagiarism** is a serious offense, and it will not be overlooked in this or in other classes. For guidance on how to avoid plagiarism, see the appendix to this syllabus.

4. Class discussion is a major component of the class. Please make sure you have read all the assigned reading for a given date before you come to class.

5. Keep back-up files of all assignments. A computer-related excuse will not be accepted for not turning in an assignment. Should a paper in question "disappear," it is up to the student to produce a second copy.

6. All book reviews, assignments and final papers must be submitted as paper copies (submission via e-mail attachment will not be accepted, unless granted by Dr. Heidbrink due to special circumstances)

7. Old Dominion University's e-mail system is the official electronic mail system for the distribution of information between faculty and students. Please contact me only via your ODU e-mail account.

## **Lecture Schedule**

### **Session One: Jan 15<sup>th</sup> : Introduction**

- What does this class seek to give the student? What is expected of you?
- Introduction: Key examples of Maritime Historiography

### **Session Two: Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> :**

- Maritime History as a historical (sub-)discipline

Books for the book review assignment need to be proposed

### **Session Three: Jan 29<sup>th</sup> :**

- Maritime History in Early Modern Period
- Maritime History and colonial interests of European Nations

Books for the book review assignment will be confirmed  
Topics of Final Discussion Papers to be fixed.

### **Session Four: Feb 5<sup>th</sup> :**

- Maritime History and the emergence of engineering as a scientific discipline
- Book reviews presented and discussed in class

Topics of Final Discussion Papers to be fixed.

### **Session Five: Feb 12<sup>th</sup> :**

- Maritime History and Justification of Politics around 1900
- Book reviews presented and discussed in class (continued)

Introduction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Research Assignment

### **Session Six: Feb 19<sup>th</sup> :**

1<sup>st</sup> Research Assignment / **No instruction in class**

Due date for the 1<sup>st</sup> Research Assignment: **Feb 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Session Seven: Feb 26<sup>th</sup> :**

- New approaches of the 1960s/70s  
(port history, maritime social and economic history, maritime archaeology etc.)
- Interdisciplinary approaches, maritime industrial archaeology, etc.

- Towards an universal history of man and the ocean

**Session Eight: March 5<sup>th</sup> :**

- Internet Data Bases and Maritime History Research

Introduction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Assignment

**March 12<sup>th</sup> Spring Holiday**

**Session Nine: March 19<sup>th</sup> :**

2<sup>nd</sup> Research Assignment / **No instruction in class**

Due date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Assignment: **March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Session Ten: March 26<sup>th</sup> :**

- Maritime History in the movies
- Societal Relevance of Maritime History Research
- Wrap up of methodological aspects of writing a research paper

**Session Eleven: April 2<sup>nd</sup> :**

- Maritime Museums

**Session Twelve: April 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Oral presentations of final discussion papers

**Due date for all final discussion papers**

**Session Thirteen: April 16<sup>th</sup> :**

Oral presentations of final discussion papers (continued)

**Session Fourteen: April 23<sup>rd</sup> :**

Oral presentations of final discussion papers (continued)

**Session Fifteen: April 30<sup>th</sup>:**

Final Class, Wrap Up of Hist 402W

**Final papers are due: April 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 in class:**

As the 402W is a class that will be assessed, please provide two copies of your final paper

Annex:  
***About Plagiarism: A Guide for College of Arts and  
Letters Students<sup>1</sup>***

**What is plagiarism?**

The ODU *Catalog* defines plagiarism as follows: "A student will have committed plagiarism if he or she reproduces someone else's work without acknowledging its source; or if a source is cited which the student has not cited or used. Examples of plagiarism include: submitting a research paper obtained from a commercial research service, the Internet, or from another student as if it were original work; making simple changes to borrowed materials while leaving the organization, content, or phraseology intact; or copying material from a source, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks. Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if one or more of the members of the group does none of the group's work and participates in none of the group's activities, but attempts to take credit for the work of the group."

**Hints for Avoiding Plagiarism:**

- \* *More than three words copied in sequence is plagiarism.* This is ordinarily a good yardstick to use when wondering whether or not quotes are appropriate; they are, if you are copying more than three words in sequence that are not part of a common phrase (e.g. "up-to-date").
- \* *One source is not "common knowledge."* Common knowledge does not require citation. But something is not common knowledge if you have found just one source for the information.
- \* *When in doubt, cite!* If you have any doubt about whether or not to cite a source, err on the side of making the attribution.
- \* *If your co-author sounds surprisingly eloquent, make sure the contribution is his/her own.* We often work in groups and co-author papers and projects. You should ask the question of your co-author if you doubt the work is his/her own. In group work, you are responsible for the project/paper in its entirety.
- \* *Look away.* When you are writing, do not have open books or papers in front of you as you type. Read your sources, and then put what you have read into your own words.
- \* *Writing is hard work.* Paraphrasing is relatively easy, writing is hard. Learning to be a good writer is part of what your college education is about. Staring at an empty screen does become less daunting over time!
- \* *Just because it's on the Internet, doesn't mean it's yours.* The Internet is a fantastic resource and search engines are terrific research tools. But what you find on the Internet was written by someone. You must cite Internet web sites, and if you use a quote, use appropriate quotation procedures.
- \* *Paraphrasing is more than changing a verb tense or reordering a list.* Essentially, paraphrasing is used to summarize another author's text. A paraphrased passage must be cited.
- \* *Use a Style Guide.* Purchase a style guide and refer to it. Your instructor may suggest one that is specific to an academic discipline. You may also ask a reference librarian for recommendations.

**The High Cost of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism can ruin your reputation and cost you your professional career, along with the respect of your peers and family. Plagiarism at Old Dominion University is an act of academic dishonesty that has serious consequences. Note that plagiarism is specifically covered in the ODU Honor Pledge. Refer to your course syllabus and the Student *Handbook* and the Office of Student Affairs for details about sanctions and penalties for this behavior.

07/16/08

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<sup>1</sup> This information is adapted from a guide developed by Old Dominion University's College of Business and Public Administration.