

Spring, 2020

Post-Medieval Seafaring

Anthropology 629

Monday, 9-12 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Crisman

Office: Anth 131b, ☎ 979-492-0751

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10-12 or by appointment



This course examines archaeological and historical sources to chronicle and explore the development of shipbuilding, seafaring practices, world exploration, waterborne trade and economic systems, and naval warfare in Europe and around the world (except the Americas) from the fifteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century. Archaeological studies of shipwrecks, ships' equipment, and cargoes provide a focal point for investigating change and continuity in the maritime sphere over five centuries.

Course Schedule:

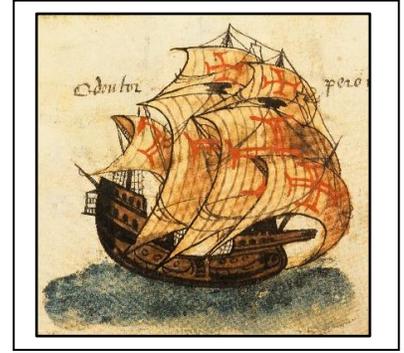
- Week 1.** **Introduction to Course.**
(Jan. 13) 1. Review of course goals and discussion of seminar presentations.
 2. Discussion of term paper research, writing, and editing.
- Week 2.** **Transitions in Ship Technology.**
(Jan. 27) Seminar topics:
 1. Europe at the End of the Medieval Era [**Crisman**].
 2. The Villefranche Wreck.
 3. TBA
- Week 3.** **The Naval Revolution Realized: Henry VIII's *Mary Rose*.**
(Feb. 3) Seminar topics:
 1. Gunpowder Weapons in Late Medieval Europe and *Mary Rose* [**Crisman**].
 2. *Mary Rose*: History, Construction, and Rigging.
 3. Archaeological Evidence of Shipboard Organization and Life on *Mary Rose*.

Week 4.
(Feb. 10)

The Discovery of the World in the 16th Century.

Seminar topics:

1. The Portuguese Quest for Asia [**Crisman**].
2. The Earliest Circumnavigators: Magellan and Drake
3. Hakluyt's *Voyages*.



Week 5.
(Feb. 17)

TBA. Term paper proposals due.

Week 6.
(Feb. 24)

Portugal's Maritime Endeavors in Asia.

Seminar topics:

1. The Pepper Wreck: *Nossa Senhora dos Mártires*.
2. *Santo António de Tanna*: History, Construction, and Artifacts.
3. Research in the Azores, Portugal's Atlantic Islands [**Crisman**].

Week 7.
(Mar. 2)

1588: The Year of the Spanish Armada.

Seminar topics:

1. Philip II, Elizabeth I, and the Origins of the Armada [**Crisman**].
2. *Trinidad Valencera*.
3. Other Armada Wrecks.



Week 8.
(Mar. 16)

The Dutch East India Company.

Seminar topics:

1. Linschoten's *Itinerario* and the Anglo-Dutch Invasion of the Far East [**Crisman**].
2. Early VOC Ships: *Mauritius* and *Batavia*.
3. The Eighteenth-Century VOC Ship *Amsterdam*.

Week 9.
(Mar. 23)

The Rise of National Navies: Seventeenth-Century Warships.

Seminar topics:

1. The Anglo-Dutch Naval Wars [**Crisman**].
2. Seventeenth-Century Swedish Tragedies: *Vasa* and *Kronan*.
3. Ships of England's Navy: The Duart Point Wreck [*Swan*].

Week 10. Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Merchant Craft.

(Mar. 30)

Seminar topics:

1. Merchant Craft of the 17th and 18th Centuries: An Overview [**Crisman**].
2. The Early 17th-Century Ship Graveyard at Christianshavn, Denmark.
3. Dutch Losses in the Baltic: *Anna Maria*, *Vrouw Maria*, and the 'Ghost Wreck'.

Week 11. The Apogee of the Royal Navy.

(Apr. 6)

Seminar topics:

1. Royal Navy Administration in the Eighteenth Century [**Crisman**].
2. R.N. Losses in Southern Latitudes: *Swift*, *Pandora*, and *Sirius*.
3. The Great Line of Battle Warships *Invincible* and *Victory*.

Week 12. The Transition to Iron and Steam.

(Apr. 13)

Seminar topics:

1. The Nineteenth-Century Revolution in Maritime Technology [**Crisman**].
2. The Steamer *Eric Nordewall*.
3. I.K. Brunel, the *Great Britain*, and the *Great Eastern*.
4. The Extreme Clipper *Cutty Sark*.

Week 13. Dreadnoughts and the Coming of the Great War.

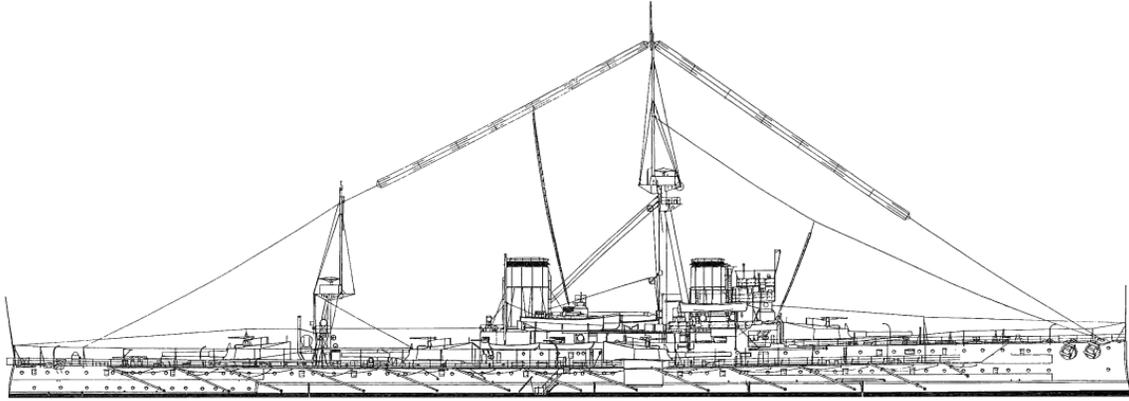
(Apr. 20)

Seminar topics:

1. *Warrior*, *Olympia* and the Revolution in Naval Technology [**Crisman**].
2. H.M.S. *Dreadnought* and the Road to Jutland.

**Week 14. Summary of Term Paper Research.**

(April 27)



ANTH 629 Post Medieval Seafaring Course Requirements

1. Seminar Presentations and Discussions (50% of final grade)

During the semester each student will choose several topics to research and present in class (the number of presentations you make will depend upon the size of the class). Presentations should be around forty minutes in length, try to keep within this time limit. Please prepare and distribute a bibliography of the sources consulted for your seminar presentation (**Note: this is part of your presentation grade, so make sure 1) You prepare a bibliography; 2) It has your name on it; and 3) Your professor gets a copy**). Use of visual aids is strongly encouraged.

Seminar presentations will be graded on the basis of their thoroughness, organization, and clarity, as well as their inclusion of illustrations (where appropriate) and the distribution of a bibliography of sources consulted in preparing the presentation.

2. Term Paper (50% of final grade)

In addition to the seminar presentations, each student will research and write a professional, publishable-quality term paper on some aspect of post-medieval seafaring. The first step, after selecting a topic and researching sources, will be to prepare a *three page* “term paper proposal” modeled on a thesis proposal; in the proposal you will state the nature and importance of the question, discuss previous research and potential sources, outline your plan for analysis of the topic, and summarize the significance of the proposed research. A *separate* bibliography of primary and secondary sources that you intend to use in preparing the term paper must be included. The term paper proposal is due by **Monday, February 17, 2020**.

The optimal length for a term paper is 20-25 pages of text (12-point font, double spaced), although papers of a greater or lesser length will be accepted (note: longer does not necessarily mean better!). The paper must adhere to the requirements and recommendations provided in my “Guidelines for Writing Your Term Paper” handout. The paper is to be submitted on or before **Noon, Monday, May 4, 2020**. Submitting your paper after this date *will result* in a lower grade.

My term paper grading criteria are as follows: (“A”) research, analysis, writing, and citation are professional and with minimal editing the paper could be published as a journal article or book chapter; (“B”) paper is good in most respects, but due to shortcomings in one or more areas would require significant editing before publication would be possible; (“C”) paper is at lowest levels of acceptability, and would require major new research or re-writing to achieve publishable standards; (“D”) paper falls below lowest levels of acceptability in research, analysis, writing, and citation; (“F”) paper fails to meet all professional standards, or the professor has found evidence of plagiarism.

The final grade: 50% class presentations/participation and 50% term paper.

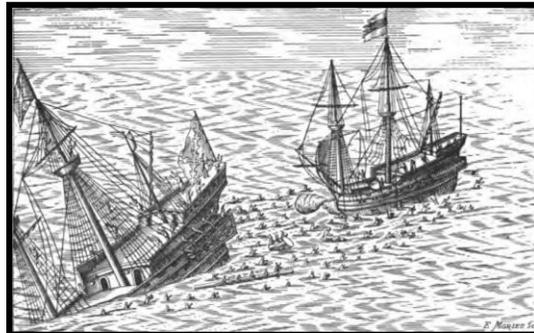
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Student Services Building. The telephone number is 845-1637.

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Any questions about this?

See the Honor Council Rules and Procedures on the web at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>



Diversity in the Anthropology Classroom

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts of Anthropology. Anthropological research provides perspectives and data that can be used to examine many current social issues that may be appropriate to discuss in this class. Students and faculty should expect to both defend and critique diverse points of view in a respectful manner. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. There is no justification for discrimination or hateful speech or behavior in any form. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to diversity, and welcomes all individuals regardless of all age, background, citizenship, disability, education, ethnicity, family status, gender, gender identity, geographical origin, language, military experience, political view, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and work experience (See <http://diversity.tamu.edu/>).