

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SUMMER TERM 2003
MET HI 235: Maritime History of New England

Location: Boston University Campus and aboard the Schooner *Ernestina*, sailing from New Bedford
21 July-2 August 2003

Class Time: Fourteen days (five days aboard ship: 22 July-26 July)

Telephone: (617) 353-3000

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Walker (e-mail: tdwalker@bu.edu)

Course Credit: Four Semester Hours

This intensive course will broadly survey the maritime history of New England -- human seaborne enterprise and the development of sea power along the North Atlantic seaboard. Classes will alternate between historical lectures (meant to set the course readings into context) and discussions of some important classics of New England maritime literature. Focusing primarily on the role of "wooden ships and iron men" during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, we will consider the various historical catalysts for the development of New England's unique maritime economy and culture. Themes will include early colonization, shipbuilding, fishing and whaling, privateering, piracy, and New England's development of global trading networks. Students will benefit from stops at some of New England's best maritime museums. The class will explore maritime history not only through the traditional means of specialized readings and lectures, but also through hands-on training aboard a traditionally-rigged wooden schooner. Students will learn by direct experience the arts of a tall-ship sailor and the historical interrelationship between humans and the sea.

Number of participants: Up to twenty students, divided into three ship's "watches," and one academic professor, as well as the vessel's usual complement of captain, able seamen and deckhands.

Daily Routine: On land, students will meet at scheduled class times or participate in scheduled class field studies to maritime sites/museums. Aboard the Schooner *Ernestina*, students will have three hours of academic instruction and an evening discussion, stand watches and help with the sailing and upkeep of the vessel. During their daily sailing period, the students will receive structured lessons from members of the professional *Ernestina* crew in the coastwise sailor's art: knots, line handling, working aloft, and the like. The rest of watch time will be spent in performing the practical duties required in running the ship. Our sailing schedule will include stops at several historic ports and maritime museums. Evenings will be spent either at anchor or docked in port.

Class times on land : 9-4pm Our actual daily schedule and sailing destinations depend on weather conditions; be prepared for flexibility!

Required texts, to be read **BEFORE** embarkation, are as follows:

1. Labaree, et. al. New England and the Sea (2nd ed.). Mystic Seaport Books, 1994.
2. Richard Henry Dana. A Seaman's Friend. Dover Books, 1997.
3. Joshua Slocum. Sailing Alone Around the World.
4. Dava Sobel. Longitude. Penguin Books, 1997.
5. Joan Druett. Hen Frigates. Touchstone Books, 1999.
6. Nathaniel Philbrick. In the Heart of the Sea; the Tragedy of the Whaling Ship *Essex*. Penguin Books, 2001.
7. Mark Kurlansky. Cod. Penguin Books, 1998.

Additional **recommended** readings:

1. Richard Henry Dana. Two Years Before the Mast.
2. Herman Melville, Moby Dick and White Jacket.
3. John Keegan. The Price of Admiralty (Penguin Books, 1987).
4. Paine, Lincoln. A Maritime History of Maine (2000).

Course requirements: Your final grade will be based on six marks, weighted as follows:

One practical seamanship test:	20%
Two academic short essay exams:	40%
Course Paper (Due three weeks after leaving the vessel):	30%
Crew/Class participation and performance:	10%

Term papers should be between ten and twelve pages, typed double-spaced. Use brief parenthetical notations to cite your sources and include a standard bibliography. A one-paragraph description of your topic and proposed sources, to be approved by the instructor, will be due in class before the final exam. Term papers will be due at the professor's office three weeks after the practical phase of the course ends. In addition, your instructor considers personal participation in and attendance to each lecture as essential to the education process. These will be taken into consideration when calculating final grades.

For students enrolled in the graduate level HI 702 section of the course a final paper with primary research is required

Academic Policy Statement. I emphasize the importance of your knowledge of, and adherence to, the Boston University's *Metropolitan College Academic Conduct Code*, especially those portions concerned with plagiarism and cheating. You can familiarize yourself with the details of academic conduct at www.bu.edu.

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Lecture Schedule and Watch Session Content

Day 1	Lecture: A Wooden World -- Introduction to the Age of Sail.
Day 2 1400-1800.	Lecture: Maritime Technology: Development of Ship Design and the Navigational Arts, Watch Session: Ship Orientation; Communication and Orders; Safety Drills; Basic Knots and Line Handling. Learning the Ropes: Memorizing the Rig; Working and Belaying Lines; Terminology.
Day 3 Seaboard.	Lecture: Discovery, Exploration and Colonization of the North American Atlantic Watch Session: Watch Session: Working Aloft: Climbing, Reefing, Furling and Gaskets. Learning Knots and Lines II.
Day 4	Lecture: New England Fisheries: Schooners on Cape Cod and the Grand Banks.

Watch Session: Compass and Chart: Introduction to the Arts of Navigation. Sail Theory and Sail Plan Combinations.

Day 5 Lecture: Timber and Cordage: New England Ship Building and Maritime Industries.
Watch Session: Helmsman's Duties: Compass and Course; Steering; Calculating Speed (Log & Line). Rigging Work: Splicings, Whippings and Seizings.

Day 6 Lecture: Wooden Walls: Mercantilist Theory; Colonies and Empires; National Defense by Sea.

Watch Session: Sail Evolutions: Tacking, Wearing and Boxhauling. **Practical Seamanship Test.**

Day 7 Sunday: Post-Sailing Rest and Study Day.

Day 8 **Day out to the Charlestown Navy Yard, USS Constitution and Constitution Museum.**

Lecture: Privateers and Super Frigates: New England Mariners at War During the Age of Sail.

Day 9 Morning Lecture: Life at Sea: The Popular Culture of Mariners; Women in the Shipboard World.

Afternoon Session: **(Exam I).**

Day 10 Morning Lecture: The Atlantic World: Trade and Piracy between New England, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean.

Afternoon Lecture: Black Jacks and Slavers: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, African Mariners, and New England.

Day 11 Lecture: Coastal Safety: Lighthouses, Life Saving, Navigational Aids and Shipwrecks in New England.

Afternoon Session: **Trip to the Massachusetts Historical Society.**

Day 12 Salem Merchantmen: Early American Trade Voyages; The *Columbia*. **Trip to Salem, MA.**

Discussion: Richard Henry Dana, Two Years Before the Mast.

Day 13 A-Whaling For To Go: Nantucket, New Bedford, the Azores and the Whaling Industry.

Afternoon Session: Exam Review and Term Paper Discussion

Day 14 Lecture: Clipper Ships, Ironclads and Steam: The End of the Age of Sail. **(Exam II).**

Discussion: Joshua Slocum, Sailing Alone Around the World.