



Boston University  
Spring 2014

Undergraduate Seminar  
CAS HI 482

**“Merchants, Pirates, Missionaries, and the State  
in Maritime Asia”**

**Professor Eugenio Menegon**

**Time: Wednesdays, 3:00-6:00 pm**  
**Location: HIS 304**

**Professor's Office:** Department of History,  
226 Bay State Road, room #409.  
Phone: 617 - 353-8308  
Email: [emenegon@bu.edu](mailto:emenegon@bu.edu)

**Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 - 2 pm; and Wednesdays 12:30 - 2pm**  
and by appointment.

**Website for this course is available at: [learn.bu.edu](http://learn.bu.edu)**

**Course Overview:**

This seminar will provide an overview of crucial themes in the history of maritime Asia (Indian Ocean; South China Sea; Pacific Ocean), tracing continuities as well as changes in political, institutional, religious, cultural and social processes centering on the oceans and seas of Asia, with more in-depth coverage for the period 1500 to the present. Starting in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Asian merchants and governments became involved in an ever-growing network of commerce and cultural exchanges spanning from Japan to the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. After the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a series of new phenomena further connected the oceanic world of maritime Asia: European presence in Asian waters, coastal piracy, the establishment of overseas Chinese colonies in South-East Asia, new Asian and European state policies, and ultimately, the contemporary state tensions over sea lanes and energy, and the rise of a new kind of piracy.

Completion of ALL readings and writing of a one-page response **prior** to each class meeting is crucial for a smooth working of the seminar. **Schedules, topics, readings and films may be revised at times, in which case announcements will be made in class as appropriate.**

### Grading and Requirements:

**Attendance and Participation (15%):** This portion of the grade will be based on regular attendance (see below) and on the general level of engagement and participation in class.

**Weekly response (30%):** Each week, students will prepare a **one-page**-long response (1.5 spacing; 12 point; 1-inch margin) on that week's readings, and formulate two questions for discussion, both to be **e-mailed** to the instructor and the student discussion leader(s) a day in advance of class (**by each Tuesday, at noon**). The précis should not simply summarize the readings; rather it should make a comprehensive, yet concise critical analysis of their arguments, and offer a comparison of them. Instructions with prompts will be posted weekly.

**Oral Presentations (15%):** Seminar members will alternate in leading discussion. The leader(s) will offer a brief **oral presentation of the main points of the readings**, and then **use select questions** sent by all seminar's members (including her/his own questions) to structure the discussion. Each seminar member will also make a final presentation of their own research paper.

**Paper proposal and annotated bibliography (10%):** due by **Friday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 pm**. **Instructions will be posted online.**

**Paper (30%):** Students are required to write one final paper during the semester. Paper is due on **Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, by 5 pm** (both paper copy and e-mail).

The **final paper** is to be 10-15 pages long (double spacing; 12 points; 1-inch margin; excluding bibliography). 1) The *topic* will be chosen by students after preliminary consultation with the instructor, and a *topic/hypothesis* will be submitted by **Friday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm**. 2) After further consultation with instructor, a *one-page written paper proposal, plus an annotated bibliography*, have to be turned in by **Friday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 pm**. For grading percentage, see above.

**\*\*Additional research other than course readings is required for the writing of the paper.\*\***

**Penalties for late work:** all written assignments must be turned in on the dates specified below. ½ grade will be deducted for each day of delay.

**Attendance** in all classes (including film screenings and educational visits) is expected and will be recorded. If you cannot attend a specific class you must make all efforts to notify the professor beforehand or to explain your absence later.

**Plagiarism** in any form is never acceptable. You are advised to review the college's definitions of and policies regarding plagiarism and cheating which are available online and in print. See the CAS Student Conduct Code:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND WEB RESOURCES

- Wade, Geoff. "The Pre-Modern East Asian Maritime Realm: An Overview of European-Language Studies." *Asia Research Institute Working Paper Series, no. 16* (2003): 1-90 (BLACKBOARD).
- Vink, Markus P.M. "Indian Ocean Studies and the 'new thalassology,'" *Journal of Global History*, 2 (2007), pp. 41-62 (BLACKBOARD).
- For *web resources*, please visit the EXTERNAL LINKS section of our Blackboard website.

### SYLLABUS OF READINGS

*All readings will be available on the Blackboard course website as PDF files or on the Mugar Library's Electronic Books platforms.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week I (January 15): Introduction to the historiography of Maritime Asia</b></li> </ul>
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Self-introduction; expectations and requirements; instructor's introductory comments on historiography; screening of documentary *Sultan's Lost Treasure* (NOVA production on undersea archeology, about an ancient Chinese shipwreck in the waters of the sultanate of Brunei); discussion of documentary and readings; assignment of semester's discussion tasks.

**Please in preparation for this meeting read:**

Companion website to the documentary at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sultan/> (also under EXTERNAL LINKS)

Buschmann, *Oceans in World History*, "Introduction," pp. 1-9.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week II (January 22): Connections through long distance trade in Asia</b></li> </ul>
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**Documentary:** "The Story of India," section on "Spices"

Gipouloux, François. *The Asian Mediterranean: Port Cities and Trading Networks in China, Japan and South Asia, 13th-21st Century*. Cheltenham, U.K.: Edward Elgar, 2011, chapters "Asian Trading kingdoms and independent urban entities (7<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century)," pp. 59-73 & "The Asian maritime system," pp. 102-109. (**Online @ Mugar Library & Blackboard**)

Abu-Lughod, Janet Lippman. *The World System in the Thirteenth-Century: Dead-End or Precursor?* Essays on Global and Comparative History Washington DC: American Historical Association, 1993 (booklet; 28 pages) (**Blackboard**)

• **Week III (January 29): Asian states and the maritime world, 600-1500**

**Documentary:** “1421, The Year China Discovered America” (part 1; selections on Zheng He)

Gipouloux, François. *The Asian Mediterranean: Port Cities and Trading Networks in China, Japan and South Asia, 13th-21st Century*. Cheltenham, U.K.: Edward Elgar, 2011, chapters “The organization of trade in Asia: the weight of government monopolies,” pp. 74-83; “Tributary trade and unofficial trade,” pp. 84-92; “Japan’s place in intra-Asian trade: resisting Chinese hegemony,” pp. 93-101 (**Online @ Mugar Library & Blackboard**)

Dreyer, Edward L. *Zheng He: China and the Oceans in the Early Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433*, Prentice Hall, 2007, pp. 1-47; 165-187. (**Blackboard**)

• **Week IV (February 5): European sea-based imperialisms in Asia (1500-1800)**

Gipouloux, François. *The Asian Mediterranean: Port Cities and Trading Networks in China, Japan and South Asia, 13th-21st Century*. Cheltenham, U.K.: Edward Elgar, 2011, Chapter “European expansion or Asian force of attraction?” pp. 113-143. (**Online @ Mugar Library & Blackboard**)

Mancke, Elizabeth. “Oceanic Space and the Creation of a Global International System, 1450-1800.” In Finamore, Daniel. *Maritime History as World History. New Perspectives on Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology*. Salem, Mass. & Gainesville: Peabody Essex Museum & University Press of Florida, 2004, pp. 149-166. (**Blackboard**)

**By Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> send a paragraph with topic/hypothesis.**

**SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR TO DISCUSS YOUR PROPOSED TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY within next 2 weeks**

• **Week V (February 12): The Selden Map: connecting Asia to Europe**

Timothy Brook, *Mr. Selden's Map of China: Decoding the Secrets of a Vanished Cartographer*, chapt 1, pp. 1-18; chapt 2, pp. 19- 44; chapt. 8, pp. 149-174. (**Blackboard**)

**NO CLASS****Wednesday February 19 (substitute Monday schedule of classes)****[Appointments with Professor]****Topic, abstract and annotated bibliography for final paper****DUE on Friday February 21, by 5 pm**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week VI (February 26): The Dutch and Koxinga in Taiwan</b></li> </ul>
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Andrade, Tonio. *Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory over the West*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2012. (selections: 1-59; 82-107; 278-329; **Online @ Mugar**)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week VII (March 5): New England and Asia</b></li> </ul>
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➤ *This seminar session will be conducted at the Peabody Essex Museum, Marine Hall, in Salem, with visit to Pingree House, US Old Custom House and ship, Salem Harbor. Departure from BU around noon; return in the evening.*

Finamore, David. "Displaying the Sea and Defining America." *Journal of Maritime Research*, May (2002): 1-12. (**Blackboard**)

James R. Fichter, *So Great a Proffit: How the East Indies Trade Transformed Anglo-American Capitalism* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2010), 1-6, 82-110, 278-288. (**Online @ Mugar**)

**Spring Break: March 8-16**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week VIII (March 19): Piracy in Asian seas</b></li> </ul>
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Antony, Robert J. *Pirates in the Age of Sail*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2007, "Part I. Overview," pp. 1-58; Doc. 27, pp. 148-151. (**Blackboard & copy at Mugar**)

Antony, Robert J. "Introduction: The Shadowy World of the Greater China Seas." In *Evasive Pirates, Pervasive Smugglers: Violence and Clandestine Trade in the Greater China Seas*, edited by Robert J. Antony, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010, pp. 1-14. (**Blackboard**)

Reid, Anthony. "Violence at Sea: Unpacking 'Piracy' in the Claims of States over Asian Seas." In *Elusive Pirates, Pervasive Smugglers : Violence and Clandestine Trade in the Greater China Seas*, edited by Robert J. Antony, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010, pp. 15-26. **(Blackboard)**

Murray, Dian. "The Practice of Homosexuality among the Pirates of Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century," in Pennell, C. R. ed., *Bandits at Sea: A Pirates Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 2001, pp. 244-252. **(Online @ Mugar)**

- **Week IX (March 26): A Colonial Upbringing. British Empire and the Malaysian Chinese Diaspora (1940s-1960s)**

Lim, Geok-lin Shirley, *Among the White Moon Faces. An Asian American Memoir of Homelands*, part 1, pp. 1-138, and last page pp. 231-32. **(Blackboard)**

**Guest speaker:** Professor Sanjay Krishnan, Department of English, Boston University

- **Week X (April 2): US naval history and Asia**

➤ *This seminar session will be conducted in conjunction with a visit of the USS Constitution Ship and Museum (Charlestown, Boston)*

Auslin, Michael R. *Negotiating with Imperialism: The Unequal Treaties and the Culture of Japanese Diplomacy*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004, chapt. 2, "Negotiating Space: The Meaning of Yokohama," pp. 34-59.

Pletcher, David M. *The Diplomacy of Involvement: American Economic Expansion across the Pacific, 1784-1900*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2001, chapt. 7, "Japan: The Sincerest Flattery," pp. 153-178.

- **Week XI (April 9): Cultural readings of the ocean in contemporary China**

**Video Clips:** 1) "Heshang" (selection on "Blueness"); 2) "Rise of the Great Powers" (selection); 3) Opening of Beijing Olympics (on Zheng He and oceans)

Su, Xiaokang, Luxiang Wang, (Richard W. Bodman, and Wan Pin P. transl). *Deathsong of the River = Ho Shang: A Reader's Guide to the Chinese TV Series Heshang*. Ithaca, N.Y.: East Asia Program Cornell University, 1991; Part 6, "Blueness," 203-22. PLS. PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOOTNOTES TOO FOR HISTORICAL CONTEXT. **(Blackboard)**

Peter Zarrow. Review of "River Elegy" by Su Xiao-kang ; Wang Luxiang ; Xia Jun Source: *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 95, No. 4 (Oct., 1990), pp. 1122-1124. **(Blackboard)**

Erickson, Andrew S. and Lyle Goldstein, "China Studies the Rise of Great Powers," in Erickson, Andrew S., Lyle Goldstein, and Carnes Lord eds. *China Goes to Sea: Maritime Transformation in Comparative Historical Perspective*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2009, pp. 401-419 + notes. **(Blackboard)**

Barmé, Geremie. "China's Flat Earth: History and 8 August 2008." *China Quarterly*, March 2009, pp. 65-86. **(Blackboard)**

• **Week XII (April 16): State Power and Piracy in Maritime Asia Today**

**Documentary:** "Modern day Pirates"

Holmes, James R., and Toshi Yoshihara. *Chinese Naval Strategy in the 21st Century: The Turn to Mahan*. London ; New York: Routledge, 2008, chapt. 6, "Commanding China's commons," pp. 87-103 + notes. **(Blackboard)**

Nincic Donna J. "Trends in Modern Piracy: Cycles, Geographical Shifts, and Predicting the Next 'Hot Spots'," *S AIS Review of International Affairs*, 33. 2, Summer-Fall 2013, pp. 105-115 **(Blackboard)**

Banyan, "New Silk Roads: roads, railways and pipelines are redefining what we mean by Asia", *The Economist*, April 10-16, 2010, p. 48. **(Blackboard)**

"Nairobi. The down-and-out lives of former Somali pirates." *Time Magazine*, April 19, 2010, p. 6. **(Blackboard)**

Selections of **who will be presenting and when** will happen by lottery in class on April 16.

• **Week XIII (April 23): Presentations of final projects**

• **Week XIV (April 30): Presentations of final projects**

**FINAL PAPER due on Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, by 5 pm  
in instructor's mailbox at History Department AND by e-mail.**