PIRATES, PILGRIMS AND POETS: GLOBALIZATION IN INDIAN OCEAN HISTORY

Rutgers University, New Brunswick – WCD (3 Credits)
College Avenue Campus – Scott Hall 101
Monday/Thursday 9:50-11:10am – 01:50

Instructor: Johan Mathew          Email: johan.mathew@rutgers.edu
Office: 002D Van Dyck Hall           Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:30pm
or by appointment

Course Description
Globalization is a phenomenon that seems to be occurring everywhere around us and yet seems to have no origin. Is the world really flat? Or have certain places, people and things become better connected than others? This course seeks to answer these questions by exploring when and why certain places became better connected, people became more mobile and things gained wider circulation. The Indian Ocean has been an important space of economic and cultural exchange for millenia. We can then see where and how ideas, commodities and people became incorporated into the Indian Ocean world and spread beyond it.

The readings and assignments in the course are designed to make you think about how economics, politics, culture interact to make connections stable or fragile. The course is divided into four thematic sections: technology and exchange, politics and space, people and mobility, and culture and representation. Each theme will cover three to four weeks and will allow us to explore specific components of the dynamics we think of as globalization.

This course fulfills the WCD requirement - Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Required Texts
(Recommended) Marina Carter and Khal Torabully, *Coolitude* (London: Anthem Press, 2002)
These available at Rutgers Book Store, all other readings will be available on Sakai

Policies and Expectations
*Attendance:* You are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, having read the readings for the week and prepared to discuss them. If you have a legitimate reason that forces you to miss class you need to inform me as soon as you are aware of it. You will still be expected to complete readings, assignments and cover any material from the lecture you missed. Unexcused absences will be penalized, and more than 5 unexcused absences from class will result in a failing grade. To self-report an absence, go to: https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ If you are late to class or ill-prepared, this will be reflected in your class participation grade. Students who attend every class will receive extra credit of 5 percentage points on their final exam grade.

*Electronic Devices:* All cell phones must be turned off or on silent (not vibrate) during class. Laptops and tablets will not be permitted in class, and use of Facebook, email or other non-class
related applications during class time will also be penalized. Medical exceptions will be accommodated.

Disabilities: If you have any learning disabilities or need other accommodations you must register with Disability Services and inform the instructor by the second week of class. See information here: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines.

Academic Integrity: In all course work you are expected to uphold the university’s standards for academic integrity. (http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/) Lapses in academic integrity include but are not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty – these will not be tolerated.

Evaluation

Class Participation: You are expected to come to class everyday having completed the readings listed for that week and to thoughtfully engage with the readings and your classmates during class time. Every week you will also post a blog entry (1-2 paragraph response to the readings) and one discussion question based on the readings for the following week. Blogs/questions must be posted by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding that week (for example: the blog responding to the readings for Week 3 should be posted on Sunday, January 29th).

Short Papers: In week 6, 10 and 15 students will submit papers of 5 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt font with 1 inch margins). These papers will be in response to an essay prompt provided by the instructor and the papers should use information from lectures, discussions and the reading materials from the course. Further information regarding expectations and grading for this paper will be provided in class. Papers should be uploaded to Sakai promptly at 9am before the first class of the week (Monday). Late papers will be penalized 5 percentage points each day they are late (so from 94(A) to 89(B+) or 82(B) to 77(C+)). Extensions will only be permitted for valid emergencies and must be requested before the assignment is due.

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<th>Grading Breakdown</th>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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Credit Points

This syllabus is subject to change, if any changes are made you will be notified.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction

Technology and Capitalism

Week 2 – Shipping
Session 1: Oceans, Climates and Structures
Session 2: Steamships vs. Sailboats
Marc Levinson, *The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger*, pp. 171-188

Week 3 – Smuggling
Session 1: Borders, Frontiers, and the Edges of Law
Session 2: What makes a good paper: prose, argument, evidence (We will have a general discussion here of the articles read so far in the course, students will evaluate and rank them in groups and then we will discuss ideas as a full class)
Johan Mathew, *Margins of the Market: Trafficking and Capitalism across the Arabian Sea*, pp. 82-113

Week 4 – Commodities and Consumers
Session 1: Cotton: The Fabric of Indian Ocean Lives
Session 2: Formulating a Thesis (We will find and evaluate thesis statements in the week’s readings discuss what makes a good thesis and then students will spend time formulating the thesis for their upcoming paper)
Readings: Sven Beckert, “Emancipation and Empire: Reconstructing the Worldwide Web of Cotton Production in the Age of the American Civil War” pp.1405-1438

Week 5 – Finance
Session 1: Money – Theory and Reality
Session 2: Financial Networks, Imperial Lacunae
Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 72-119

Politics and Space

Week 6 – Piracy before Modernity
Session 1: Short Paper 1 is Due, Piracy before Modernity
Session 2: Henry Every and William Kidd
Documents from the Case of Henry Every

Week 7 – Modern Piracy
Session 1: **Reviewing Paper 1 – Discussing with Students common pitfalls, possibilities for improvement, classroom activities in which students compare and critique introductions and body paragraphs from different student papers**
Session 2: Somali Piracy
Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 36-71
Selections from James Buckingham and Salil ibn Ruzaiq
Jay Bahadur, *Pirates of Somalia*, pp. 57-75

Week 8 – Empires
Session 1: The Ming Treasure Fleet
Session 2: **Good to the Last Comma: A Primer on Close Reading (In preparation for paper two we will have a discussion and trial of close reading a primary source, thinking about audience, genre, context and how to compare two views of the same event)**
Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 120-147
Giancarlo Casale, “Global Politics in the 1580s: One Canal, Twenty Thousand Cannibals, and an Ottoman Plot to Rule the World” pp. 267-296

**SPRING BREAK**

Week 9 – Third World Rebels
Session 1: Expatriate Patriots
Session 2: Anti-Colonial Networks
Maureen Swan, *Gandhi: The South African Experience*, Ch. 6 and Conclusion

**People and Mobility**

Week 10 – Slaves
Session 1: **Short Paper 2 is Due** Other Middle Passages
Session 2: The Abolition of the Slave Trade
History of a small slave buried alive, or filial love, Trans. Pier M. Larson

Week 11 – Coolies
Session 1: **The Chicago Manual of Style – Tips and Thoughts (Students will be introduced to the standard citation format for historical scholarship, we will also discuss the importance of citation practices and their relationship to academic integrity)**
Session 2: Coolitude
Readings: Sunil Amrith, “Indians Overseas?: Governing Tamil Migration to Malaya” pp. 231-61
Marina Carter and Khal Torabully, *Coolitude*, pp. 45-87, 217-26

Week 12 – Pilgrims
Session 1: Buddhism
Session 2: The Hajj
Michael Miller “Pilgrim’s Progress: The Business of the Hajj” pp. 189-228

**Culture and Representation**

Week 13 – Intellectuals and Cosmopolitanism
Session 1: Ship as Salon
Session 2: **Hearing Oral History** (The class will discuss oral histories as a particular type of historical source discussing how to critically analyze such sources for fact, opinion, and mentalite. We will also discuss how to combine oral history with traditional documentary sources to flesh out a historical argument)
Isabel Hofmeyr, “Gandhi’s Printing Press” pp. 112-127

Week 14 – Hybrid Literatures, Traveling Movies
Session 1: Fantastic Tales, Traveling Stodies
Session 2: Global Bollywood
Readings: Devleena Ghosh and Stephen Muecke, “Indian Ocean Stories” pp. 24-43
Amitav Ghosh “Of Fanás and Forecastles” pp. 15-31

Week 15 – Conclusion
Session 1 - **Short Paper 3 is Due** Conclusion
No Readings, Finish your papers