

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 – 01:508:337, Index # 20312

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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

Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006)

(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.

Grading Breakdown		Grading Scale		
Class Participation	25%	Percentage Totals	Grade	Credit Points
Short Paper 1	25%	89.5-100%	A	4.0
Short Paper 2	25%	84.5-89.49%	B+	3.5
Short Paper 3	25%	79.5-84.49%	B	3.0
		74.5-79.49%	C+	2.5
		69.5-74.49%	C	2.0
		59.5-69.49%	D	1.0
		0-59.49%	F	0

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

Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 1-35

Erik Gilbert, *Dhows and the Colonial Economy in Zanzibar, 1860-1970*, pp. 84-109

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)**

Readings: Eric Tagliacozzo, *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier 1865-1915*, pp. 318-76

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

Jeremy Prestholdt, "On the Global Repercussions of East African Consumerism" pp. 755-782

Week 5 – Finance

Session 1: Money – Theory and Reality

Session 2: Financial Networks, Imperial Lacunae

Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 72-119

Wambui Mwangi, "Of Coins and Conquest: The East African Currency Board, the Rupee Crisis, and the Problem of Colonialism in the East African Protectorate" pp. 763-87

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

Readings: Sebastian R. Prange, “A Trade of No Dishonor: Piracy, commerce and Community Across the Western Indian Ocean” pp. 1269-1293
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
Geoff Wade, “The Zheng He Voyages: A Re-assessment” pp. 37-58
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

Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 148-192
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

Readings: Joseph Harris, *The African Presence in Asia*, pp. 77-98
Janet Ewald, “Crossers of the Sea: Slaves, Freedmen, and other Migrants in the Northwestern Indian Ocean, c. 1750-1914” pp. 69-91
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

Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 193-232

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)**

Readings: Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons*, pp. 233-271

Isabel Hofmeyr, “Gandhi’s Printing Press” pp. 112-127

Week 14 – Hybrid Literatures, Traveling Movies

Session 1: Fantastic Tales, Traveling Studies

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