

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

AMH 4694

AMERICA & THE SEA

Spring 2019
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Classroom: GS 111
3 credit hours
CRN: 14987

Prof. Evan P. Bennett

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

All of human history is connected to the sea. The history of the United States is no different. North America's earliest inhabitants likely followed the coast on their way to settling the continent, and many of their descendants depended on the sea for their survival. Generations of people crossed the oceans to North America, sometimes of their own will, many times not. Many of these people, too, made their lives in the maritime world of colonial North America and, later, the United States. Even today, much of the food we eat and most of the products we buy come to us via the oceans. Yet our histories do not often enough account for these connections and keep their focus solely on terrestrial topics.

The course is necessarily a brief overview of a very large field that encompasses a number of sub-fields and connected interests. The selection of topics is somewhat idiosyncratic and leaves some sub-fields out. Nevertheless, students will find a strong introduction to the larger issues in American maritime history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to...

1. Identify major themes, events, and figures in American maritime history.
2. Explain the historical development of the United States's relationship with the maritime world.
3. Analyze primary sources related to American maritime history.
4. Write interpretive histories using primary and secondary sources.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Students are required to obtain their own copies of the following books for use this semester. All are available in the FAU Bookstore, although you are free to buy them wherever you can find them.

- Jack E. Davis, *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* (Liveright, 2017) ISBN: 978-1-6314-9402-4
- Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Penguin, 2007) ISBN: 978-0-14-311425-3
- Craig L. Symonds, *American Naval History: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2016), ISBN: 978-0-19-939476-0
- Connie Y. Chiang, *Shaping the Shoreline: Fisheries and Tourism on the Monterrey Coast* (Washington, 2008), ISBN: 978-0-295-99139-9
- John McPhee, *Looking for a Ship* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1991), ISBN: 978-0374-5231-9-0

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance and Discussion

Students are expected to attend every class meeting and participate in class discussion and activities. Roll will be taken each class meeting. Students are permitted two unexcused absences without penalty; each additional unexcused absence will result in a reduction of the attendance portion of the grade by 3 percentage points.

The professor will use the following guidelines for assessing participation:

- A-Range: Regular, thoughtful comments that add to the discussion
- B-range: Less regular, thoughtful comments that add to the discussion
- C-Range: Less regular, less thoughtful comments that add to the discussion
- D-Range: Very limited comments and/or other participation
- F-Range: You either were not in class or no one could tell you were

Thoughtful comments are defined as those that evince careful reading and thought about the topic at hand, and propel the discussion further. Good questions, even if they seem simple, are also evidence of thoughtful participation. Being able to point to specific evidence is especially good evidence of thoughtful reading and, therefore, is encouraged. Humor is permitted, even encouraged, at appropriate times. Thoughtful discussion also makes room for disagreement without acrimony.

Book Outlines

Students will write brief outlines of the assigned books. Detailed instructions will be distributed the first week of classes.

Papers

Students will write two original papers this semester. Details about each will be distributed during the semester.

First Paper due Thursday, January 24

Second Paper due Thursday, April 11

All papers will be submitted both in hard copy and through Canvas.

Exam

There will be only a final exam for this course. It will be administered on the following dates. A study guide will be provided beforehand.

Final Exam: Tuesday, April 30, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

GRADES

Attendance and Participation	15%
Book Outlines	25%
Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

A 94-100; A- 90-93; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73- 76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F 59 and below.

Appropriate rounding will be considered when calculating grades.

Grading Policy

I am more than willing to discuss your grade with you in person. However, any request for a grade change must be made in writing and include a detailed rationale of why the grade should be altered.

Assignments may be turned in late only with documented proof of illness or university business. The same policy applies to quizzes and tests.

I only rarely offer extra credit assignments and never create alternate/additional assignments, so please do not ask.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Class Climate: I expect that students will create and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect in which everyone's ideas and questions can be heard.
2. Cell phones: Please silence cell phones when you enter the classroom. Please show common courtesy and do not send text messages or use Facebook or any other apps during the class.
3. Technology: Students are to use technology in the classroom only so far as its use relates to the class.

4. Tardiness: Students are expected to arrive on time for each class meeting. If you arrive late, please enter the room quietly. Chronic tardiness (as defined by the instructor) will result in a reduction in the final grade.
5. Seating: The instructor reserves the right to tell students where to sit.
6. Students enrolled in this class are required to have the computer technology necessary to complete any online course requirements. Ensuring sufficient computing capacity, Internet connectivity, and software compatibility are the responsibility of the student. Students are required to have access to an Internet browser capable of accessing Canvas.
7. Communication: There are several ways we will communicate in this class.
 - a. Announcements: The professor will communicate any important updates to the course through Canvas's Announcements tool. These will be visible on the course's main page, and you will also receive an email in your FAU account.
 - b. Email: Feel free to email me if you have any questions. Please allow 24 hours for a response, and do not expect a reply on weekends. Please use your best emailing skills when writing.
 - c. Phone: I will be available by phone during office hours, provided I am not meeting with anyone at that moment. If you call and are turned over to voicemail, please leave a message with a contact number and a best time to call you back. My office number is 561-297-0008. You may also reach me through Skype: evan.bennett.history
8. Wikipedia: Wikipedia and other open source information sites are not reliable enough for scholarly research and are thus not appropriate for use as a source in a formal history paper. Students in need of general information are required to use a standard, reliable encyclopedia. The FAU Libraries maintain a subscription to Britannica Online, which provides full access to Encyclopaedia Britannica both on campus and off campus through Off Campus Connect.
In other words: WIKIPEDIA IS NOT PERMITTED FOR ANY ASSIGNMENT.

University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW): Students seeking to improve their writing should avail themselves of all available resources. I am eager to discuss your writing with you in person during office hours and am willing to look over drafts provided you give me ample time to do so. You may also seek the assistance of the University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW). Staffed by certified graduate student consultants, the UCEW's Writing Center offers both online and in-person one-on-one consultation sessions. UCEW services are available on the Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter campuses. You must first register at their website in order to access their services. <http://www.fau.edu/UCEW/WC/>.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Students with Disabilities: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a

disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 203 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8585) —and follow all SAS procedures. For more information, go to <http://fau.edu/sas/>

Academic Integrity: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations: [http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001 Code of Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center: Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>.

Schedule – Spring 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reading/Viewing for Class</u>
T 1/8	Introductions	Syllabus
R 1/10	Before the Atlantic	Davis, <i>The Gulf</i> , 1-40 Davis book outline, part 1, due
T 1/15	Mercantile Worlds	Davis, <i>The Gulf</i> , 41-92 Davis book outline, part 2, due
R 1/17	Pirates	Piracy Documents (Canvas)
T 1/22	The Slave Trade	Rediker, <i>The Slave Ship</i> , entire
R 1/24	Waterborne Revolutions	Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 1-11 Symonds book outline, part 1, due <i>Paper 1 Due</i>
T 1/29	Maritime Nation	Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 12-23 Symonds book outline, part 2, due Simon P. Newman, “Reading the Bodies of Early American Seafarers,” <i>William & Mary Quarterly</i> , 3 rd series, 55(Jan. 1998): 59-82 (Canvas)
R 1/31	The War of 1812	Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 24-34 Symonds book outline, part 3, due
T 2/5	Sails and Canals	Davis, <i>The Gulf</i> , 97-113 Davis book outline, part 3, due Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 35-44 Symonds book outline, part 4, due
R 2/7	Fishing and Whaling	Davis, <i>The Gulf</i> , 114-149 Davis book outline, part 4, due
T 2/12	Pacific Connections	Pacific Expansion Documents (Canvas)
R 2/14	Sailors	Margaret S. Creighton, “Fraternity in the American Forecastle, 1830-1870,” <i>New England Quarterly</i> 63 (Dec. 1990): 531-557 (Canvas)

T 2/19	Sailortowns	Lisa Norling, "Ahab's Wife: Women and the American Whaling Industry, 1820-1870," in Creighton and Norling, eds, <i>Iron Men, Wooden Women: Gender and Seafaring in the Atlantic World, 1700-1920</i> (1996): 92-117 (Canvas)
R 2/21	Black Jacks	Kevin J. Dawson, "Enslaved Underwater Divers in the Atlantic World," in Gordinier, ed., <i>Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Power in Maritime America</i> (2008), 61-74 (Canvas)
T 2/26	No Class Meeting	
R 2/28	Maritime Civil War	Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 45-56 Symonds book outline, part 5, due
T 3/5	Spring Break	
R 3/7	Spring Break	
T 3/12	The Steam Revolution	Maritime Labor Conditions documents (Canvas)
R 3/14	Fathoming the Deep	TBD
T 3/19	Life at the Shore	Davis, <i>The Gulf</i> , 150-260 Davis book outline, part 5, due Chiang, <i>Shaping the Shoreline</i> , 12-59 Chiang book outline, part 1, due
R 3/21	Making a Modern Navy	Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 57-79 Symonds book outline, part 6, due
T 3/26	Struggles on Shore	Chiang, <i>Shaping the Shoreline</i> , 60-131 Chiang book outline, part 2, due
R 3/28	The Naval War	Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 80-96 Symonds book outline, part 7, due
T 4/2	The Cold War Navy and After	Symonds, <i>American Naval History</i> , 97-122 Symonds book outline, part 8, due
R 4/4	Merchant Mariners	McPhee, <i>Looking for a Ship</i> , entire
T 4/9	Containerized	TBD

R 4/11	Beachfront Property	Davis, <i>The Gulf</i> , 261-410 (outline for this section to be included with final outline due on 4/18) <i>Paper 2 Due</i>
T 4/16	Cruising	Chiang, <i>Shaping the Shoreline</i> , 132-181 Chiang book outline, part 3, due
R 4/18	The Future of the Ocean	Davis, <i>The Gulf</i> , 411-530 Davis book outline, part 6, due

Final Exam: Tuesday, April 30, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.