

HIS 301.01
The World of the Indian Ocean

Satisfies: ESI

Prof. Eric Beverley

Tues/Thurs 2:30PM - 3:50PM

Taking oceans, rather than nations or empires, as key units for historical study focuses attention on the movement of people, ideas, and commodities across space, and the political, cultural, and material formations that emerge from these circulations. This course examines stages of globalization from antiquity to the present across Indian Ocean regions: South and Southeast Asia, eastern and southern Africa, and West Asia (known as the Middle East). By developing a comparative and global method and approach, and exploring connections generated by trade, religion, labor flows, and activism in different moments of empire, we will view the Indian Ocean in relation to other places in the world. Studying the Indian Ocean world will provide an opportunity to reflect on broader questions in the discipline of history and develop critical methodological skills. Students in the course will read and interrogate primary and sources, and conceive, develop, write, and revise an original historical research paper.

This is a 301 Workshop in the craft of history, with an emphasis on source analysis, writing & argumentation, and historical research methods. As the gateway course for the capstone seminar (401), 301 teaches students how to interpret and critique primary and secondary sources, become proficient in the standards of writing in History, and develop competency in library research.