

Oceans, Islands and Pirates POLS 390

Course Information:

Spring 2014
Classroom: MO 110
Meeting Time: MW 1-2:15 p.m.
Course Website: Moodle

Contact Information:

Instructor: Elizabeth Nyman
Email: enyman@louisiana.edu
Office: Mouton Hall 229
Office Hours: MW 11-1, T 9-12 or by appt.

Course Description and Objectives

The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major political, economic and cultural issues affecting oceans, islands and pirates. Oceans are one of the world's great global commons, and international law has only been somewhat effective in limiting pollution and preventing overfishing. Islands are seen as peripheral, but they cover a vast 22.4 million square kilometers of ocean space. Islands have a unique cultural history and face special challenges for development, making them an interesting topic of study. Piracy has experienced resurgence in the last decade, threatening the free flow of global commerce. Some scholars blame the extant ocean issues for the rise of piracy; others claim poor governance of states leads to opportunities for pirates. We consider all of these issues in turn, seeing how one affects the other. Upon completion of this course, students should have a strong basic knowledge of the major issues surrounding ocean management, island politics, culture and development, and suggested causes of historical and modern piracy.

Required Texts

Elizabeth DeSombre and Samuel Barkin. 2011. *Fish*. Polity Press.

J. Edward Chamberlain. 2013. *Island: How Islands Transform the World*. Bluebridge.

Jay Bahadur. 2011. *The Pirates of Somalia: Inside their Hidden World*. Vintage.

Course Requirements

(1) **Examinations:** There will be three exams in this course. They will be worth 20% each.

(2) **Writing Assignment:** Each student will be responsible for writing an original 10-12 page research paper analyzing an aspect of conflict and security covered in this course. This paper will require students to do research beyond the materials covered in the course, and should show high level thinking about the chosen aspect of international conflict. This paper is worth 30% of the course grade.

(3) **Participation:** Students will be graded on their participation in class discussion, and this will make up 10% of the course grade. Active participation is necessary to garner full credit, and this means that students are expected to have done the required reading in advance, to have considered the topic under discussion as they read, and to come to class with an active interest in the material. This is an upper division course, and participation grades will reflect that.

Course Letter Grades

Final course letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below

I will not respond to end of semester emails requesting a grade change.

Course Policies

Absences from Exams and Late Work: Makeup exams will be allowed when students are participating in formally sanctioned University events if proper documentation is provided to the instructor prior to the exam. Makeup exams will also be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance.

Academic Honor Policy: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students committing these violations will be punished according to University policy. Be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism; ignorance is not an excuse. Consult Section V in the UL Lafayette Undergraduate Bulletin for the university definitions of plagiarism for more information about what constitutes an offense.

Courtesy in the Classroom: Attention to classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distraction. As such, please silence and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. Please be on time to class and remain in class until you are dismissed. If you must arrive late or leave early, please take the seat nearest an exit, and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please show respect for your fellow students by refraining from talking during lectures, as well as when other students are speaking. Similarly, please respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you are in disagreement with them. Repeated disruption of class will lead to a reduction of your final grade.

Nondiscrimination Policy: UL Lafayette does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability. This classroom is intended to be a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. If you have any suggestions as to how I can improve the learning environment in this course, please let me know. I will give all such suggestions serious consideration.

Health Issues and Disabilities: Students are encouraged to address any special needs or accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should speak with the Office of Disability Services at 337-482-5252 or ods@louisiana.edu and receive documentation. You can also visit the ODS website (<http://disability.louisiana.edu>) for information on ODS services and on eligibility requirements. Furthermore, if you are concerned about your physical and/or mental

well-being, I strongly encourage you to visit the UL Counseling and Testing Center, Saucier Wellness Center, OK Allen Hall, or call them at 337-482-6480. After hours help can be found by calling University Police at 337-482-6447 and asking to speak with the counselor on call.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure: Students with any sort of condition that may place them at risk during an emergency evacuation are responsible for preplanning their own evacuation strategies. You are also responsible for identifying yourself to your professor at the beginning of the semester and sharing information on your particular needs and your evacuation plan.

Course Outline**

Oceans

Week 1 (Jan 15-17)	Introduction to course
Week 2 (Jan 20-24)	Law of the Sea
Martin Luther King Day: Jan. 20	
Week 3 (Jan. 27-31)	Law of the Sea continued
Week 4 (Feb. 3-7)	Fishery Issues (DeSombre and Barkin, all)
Week 5 (Feb. 10-14)	Ocean Conflict (Mitchell and Prins, Moodle)
Week 6 (Feb. 17-21)	Marine Pollution (Patton, Moodle)
Week 7 (Feb. 24-28)	Ocean Literacy (Steel et al, Moodle)

Exam 1: Feb 28

Islands

Week 8 (March 3-7)	NO CLASS
Mardi Gras: March 3-5	
No Class: March 7	
Week 9 (March 10-14)	Introduction to Islands (Chamberlain, all)
Paper Due: March 14	
Week 10 (March 17-21)	Island Development & Tourism (Tran, Moodle)
Week 11 (March 24-28)	Movie
Week 12 (March 31-April 4)	Artificial Islands (Jackson and della Dora, Moodle)

Exam 2: Apr 4

Pirates

Week 13 (April 7-11)	Piracy and the Law of the Sea (Nyman, Moodle)
Week 14 (April 14-18)	Somali Piracy (Bahadur, all)

Spring Break: April 18-27

Week 15 (April 28-May 2)	Fighting Piracy
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Final Exam (Exam 3): May 8 at 11 a.m.

**** The syllabus is a guideline for the course and is subject to change.**