

**SYLLABUS HISTORY 463 & 857, HISTORY OF INDIA & THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA/  
SEMINAR-HISTORY OF INDIA (SOUTH ASIA) [3 credits]**

**SPRING 2004-2005**

11:00-1:00 W 5245 Humanities

Instructor: Prof. André Wink

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**Subject of the course:** The Indian Ocean is a fast emerging new field of study which, covering an area from East Africa, Egypt and the Red Sea to the Spice Islands of Indonesia, is as much Indian, Islamic, and Chinese as it is European overseas and world history. The traditional view of the Indian Ocean area has been profoundly altered by the historical work of the last twenty to thirty years. What once appeared to be a series of isolated trading enclaves on the fringes of vast agrarian civilizations has now been recognized as an integrated commercial system of great complexity, with the Indian subcontinent as its pivot, and taking up a large share of the world's total productive activity. New questions have begun to be addressed relating to the forms of economic, political, social, and cultural organization in the area. What was the relationship between the land-based states and maritime trade and port cities? What was the role of nomads and caravan trade in the arid and semi-arid areas bordering the Indian Ocean? How did, from the earliest times, cities develop, both inland and on the seaboard? What effect did great rivers and rivershifts have on the development of human settlement in India and the lands around the Indian Ocean?

While dealing with such questions in the broadest way, the aim of this course is to cover all periods of history and to give special attention to the geographical context in which historical developments occurred. This will serve to restore a picture of the historical interconnectedness of the Indian Ocean area.

**Format:** this is a seminar, emphasizing the discussion of reading materials, as well as the writing of book reviews, in addition to lectures presented by the instructor and some presentations by the participants.

**Reading list:**

1. A. Wink, 'From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean: Medieval History in Geographic Perspective,' *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (July, 2002), pp. 416-445.
2. R. Hall, *Empires of the Monsoon: A History of the Indian Ocean and its Intruders* (London, 1996).
3. H. Louis Gates, Jr., *Wonders of the African World* (New York, 1999)
4. K. N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750* (Cambridge, 1985).
5. A. Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680, Volume One: The Lands below the Winds* (New Haven & London, 1988).
6. M. Adas, "*High*" *Imperialism and the "New" History* (Washington, 1993).
7. A. Rashid, *Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia* (London & New York, 2000).
8. Additional chapters of books and articles in reader.

## **PROGRAM**

### **January 5**

Introduction

Handout: syllabus

### **January 12**

Medieval Europe and the Indian Ocean; the 'lost' civilisations of the Indian Ocean: environmental change, geography and history; coastlines and the connections of land and sea.

Readings: J. Le Goff, 'The Medieval West and the Indian Ocean: An Oneiric Horizon,' in: *Time, Work & Culture in the Middle Ages* (Chicago & London, 1980), pp. 189-200; K. N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750* (Cambridge, 1985), pp. 1-33.

### **January 19**

The Indian Ocean and its islands; the arid zone and the world of nomads; the rise of Islam.

Readings: K. N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750* (Cambridge, 1985), pp. 34-62.

### **January 26**

From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean: medieval history in geographic perspective.

Readings: A. Wink, 'From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean: Medieval History in Geographic Perspective,' *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (July, 2002), pp. 416-445.

### **February 2**

Trade and navigation in the Indian Ocean prior to the sixteenth century.

Readings: R. Hall, *Empires of the Monsoon: A History of the Indian Ocean and its Invaders* (London, 1996), pp. xxi-xxiii, 3-101.

### **February 9**

Empire, trade and the expansion of Islam.

Readings: J. F. Richards, 'The Islamic Frontier in the East: Expansion into South Asia,' *South Asia*, 4 (1974), pp. 91-109; S. F. Dale, 'The Islamic Frontier in Southwest India: The Shahīd as a Cultural Ideal among the Mappillas of Malabar,' *Modern Asian Studies*, 11, 1 (1977), pp. 41-55

### **February 16**

Conversion to Islam.

Readings: R. M. Eaton, 'Approaches to the Study of Conversion to Islam in India,' in R. C. Martin (ed.), *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies* (Tucson, 1985); A. Reid, 'The Islamization of Southeast Asia,' in: M. A. Bakar, A. Kaur & A. Z. Ghazali (eds), *Historia: Essays in Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Department of History, University of Malaya* (Kuala Lumpur, 1984), pp. 13-33.

### **February 23**

MID-TERM EXAM

### **March 2**

Ethiopia, Nubia and the Swahili coast of Africa.

Readings: H. Louis Gates, Jr., *Wonders of the African World* (New York, 1999), pp. 1-108, 149-192.

### **March 9**

The Portuguese *Estado da India*.

Readings: K. N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750* (Cambridge, 1985), pp. 63-79; R. Hall, *Empires of the Monsoon: A history of the Indian Ocean and its invaders* (London, 1998), pp. 103-292.

### **March 16**

The Dutch and English East India Companies.

Readings: K. N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750* (Cambridge, 1985), pp. 80-97; R. Hall, *Empires of the Monsoon: A history of the Indian Ocean and its invaders* (London, 1998), pp. 293-330.

### **March 30**

Southeast Asia in the early modern age.

Readings: A. Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680, Volume I: The Lands below the Winds* (New Haven & London, 1988).

### **April 6**

European imperialism in the Indian Ocean area.

Readings: M. Adas, *"High" Imperialism and the "New" History* (Washington, 1993).

### **April 13**

South Asia and the world today.

Readings: A. Rashid, *Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia* (London & New York, 2000), pp. 1-30, 183-195.

### **April 20**

The new Great Game.

Readings: A. Rashid, *Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia* (London & New York, 2000), pp. 82-156, 207-216.

**April 27:**

Concluding remarks.

**May 4:**

FINAL EXAM