

HIST 2729:

Seas, Peoples, and Empires

Instructor: Pernille Røge

Transnational theme: Atlantic History

This course focuses on interactions between seas, peoples, and empires in historical and comparative contexts. Using maritime history as its point of departure, the course explores the multiple ways in which contact with the sea shaped the lives of peoples and empires across the world. Beginning with Braudel's pioneering regional study of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World, the course moves into the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. In each of these contexts, students will consider how the lives of people across social hierarchies were mediated through the interpenetration of empires and maritime regions. The course also considers the extent to which enclosed maritime worlds make sense historically – as the voluminous literature on specific basins suggest that they do – and if so, what distinguished one such world from that of another? Students will explore these lines of inquiry through readings that concentrate predominantly, though not exclusively, on the early modern and modern periods.