

## HISTORY U25302

The Wooden Walls - The Royal Navy Under Sail: 1500-1815

2018-2019

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### **Course Description:**

The navy changed immensely from that of Henry VIII, and his Mary Rose, to that of Nelson and Victory. Britain went from being a second rate European power to the sole world superpower by 1815. This module explores the changes which both navy and nation experienced in the early modern period. To do so, it looks at key events, including battles such as the Armada and Trafalgar, but also assesses how the navy was supplied and manned, and how the experience of the sailor changed in this period. Using the collections of the museums on the University's doorstep, as well as the historic ships in Portsmouth, the course will look to understand what it was like to serve aboard a wooden sailing ship, and how the navy, and its heroes and ordinary sailors, were portrayed to the nation at large.

### **Course Format:**

Course seminar sessions will involve discussion of assigned readings, presentations by students on weekly topics, discussion papers, and a take home final exam. Attendance is mandatory and subject reading must be completed prior to each week's sessions. Students, through engagement with the historiographical material and scholarly debate, will develop a fundamental understanding of the key personages, subject watersheds, significant campaigns and operations, and the cultural history of the Royal Navy within the context of the period.

### **Course Texts:**

#### **Required:**

*The Command of the Ocean*, N. A. M. Rodger (2004)

*The Safeguard of the Sea*, N. A. M. Rodger (1998)

*The Admiralty*, N. A. M. Rodger, (1979)

*Drake and the Tudor Navy*, 2 vols, Julian Corbett (1917 reprint)

*The Successors of Drake*, Julian Corbett (1900)

*From Howard to Nelson*, ed., John Knox Laughton (1907 reprint)

*Statesmen and Sea Power*, Herbert Richmond (1946)

*The Oxford Illustrated History of the Royal Navy*, ed., J. R. Hill (1995)  
*The Napoleonic Wars*, Gunther Rothenberg (2001)

**Suggested:**

*Hakluyt's Promise*, Peter Mancall (2007)  
*The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*, Paul Kennedy (1998 reprint)  
*Admirals*, Andrew Lambert (2009 reprint)  
*A Military History of the Western World*, vol. 2, J. F. C. Fuller (1955)  
*The Military Revolution*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Geoffrey Parker (1996),  
*The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660 – 1783* (1987 reprint)  
*Britain Against Napoleon, The Organization of Victory, 1793 – 1815* , Roger Knight (2013)  
*The Sixteenth Century*, Patrick Collinson, (2002)  
*The Wooden World, An Anatomy of the Georgian Navy*, N. A. M Rodger, (1988 reprint)  
*Fighting Instructions, 1530 – 1816*, Julian Corbett, Navy Records Society Vol. 29

Additional reading assignments will be based on materials available in the Library, and through online databases. Students should print all digital material for their files.

**Course Assignments:**

Utilizing the weekly reading guide, students will present twice on aspects of the assigned reading subjects, and answer questions from the instructor as well as the class, followed by general discussion. Students will submit discussion papers presenting their analysis and research on their presentation topics.

**Examination**

Students will have 48 hours to complete a two part take home final exam. Students will write responses to two questions selected from a predetermined list. Responses should typically range from 8 to 12 pages per question.

**Components of the Final Grade**

Class participation	20%
Presentations	20%
Discussion Papers	20%
Final exam	40%

## Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Block One, 1450 – 1700</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<p><b>Week One</b> Sept. 8-11</p>	<p><b>Introduction, (1422 – 1509)</b> Henry V, Henry VI, Edward IV, Henry VII. The War of the Roses. Medieval naval heritage.</p>	<p><b>Rodger, <i>Admiralty</i>, chapter 1</b> <b>Rodger, <i>Safeguard</i>, chapter 12, 13,</b> <b>Susan Rose in J. R. Hill, chapter 1</b> Parker, <i>Revolution</i>, chapter 1 &amp; 2 J. A. Sharpe in Collinson, chapter 1 Steven Ellis in Collinson, chapter 2 Simon Adams in Collinson, chapter 6 C. Lambert, “The Agincourt campaign...” (2017).<sup>i</sup></p>
<p><b>Week Two</b> Sept. 14-18</p>	<p><b>Henry VIII &amp; The Tudor Navy (1509 – 1547)</b> The Early Modern Navy Administrative reforms and technical developments. Revolution in early modern warfare, mercantilism &amp; piracy. <i>Mary Rose</i>.</p>	<p><b>Rodger, <i>Safeguard</i>, chapter 14, 15, 16, 17</b> <b>Corbett, <i>Fighting Instructions</i>, chapter 1, 2</b> <b>Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 1</b> Corbett, <i>Drake</i>, chapters 6, 7, &amp; 11 (vol. 1), &amp; chapter 1 &amp; 2 (vol. 2) Parker, <i>Revolution</i>, chapter 3 Diarmaid MacCulloch in Collinson, chapter 3 Guilmartin, “warfare at sea...” (2011).<sup>ii</sup> Glasgow, “List of ships...” (1970).<sup>iii</sup> Goldingham, “Navy under Henry VII,” (1918).<sup>iv</sup> Davies, “Origins of the Navy Board,” (1965).<sup>v</sup> L. Bell, “Sinking of the Mary Rose...” (2009).<sup>vi</sup></p>
<p><b>Week Three</b> Sept. 21-25</p>	<p><b>The Elizabethan Navy, (1547 – 1603)</b> Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I. England in the Atlantic system during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Expansion of English naval power, Armada campaign and the origins of the British Empire. Drake and Howard. Sir Walter Raleigh, beginning of naval orders.</p>	<p><b>Rodger, <i>Safeguard</i>, chapter 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23</b> <b>Corbett, <i>Fighting Instructions</i>, chapter 2</b> Waters, “Elizabethan Navy...” (1949).<sup>vii</sup> David Loades in J. R. Hill, chapter 2 Richmond, <i>Statesmen</i>, chapter 1 Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 1 (Howard) John Guy in Collinson, chapter 4 Corbett, <i>Drake</i>, chapters 8, 9, 10 (vol. 1) &amp; 1, 4, 5, 6 (vol. 2 – Armada campaign) Corbett, <i>Successors</i>, chapters 1, 2, 3, 12, 13 &amp; 17 Fuller, <i>History</i>, chapter 1 (vol. 2)</p>

<p><b>Week Four</b> Sept. 28- Oct. 2</p>	<p><b>The Stuart Navy, 1603 - 1649</b> North American Colonization, exploration, English Civil war, Cromwell's naval policy. The Royal Navy during the Commonwealth &amp; Protectorate. Blake.</p>	<p><b>Rodger, <i>Safeguard</i>, chpt. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28</b> <b>Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 2</b> Richmond, <i>Statesmen</i>, chapter 2 Mancall, <i>Hakluyt</i>, chapter, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Fuller, <i>History</i>, chapter 3 (vol. 2) Parker, <i>Revolution</i>, chapter 4, 5, 6 Greg Walker in Collinson, chapter 5 Corbett, <i>Fighting Instructions</i>, chapter 3 Oppenheim, "Navy under Charles I," (1893).<sup>viii</sup></p>
<p><b>Week Five</b> Oct. 5-9</p>	<p><b>Anglo-Dutch Wars, proto-globalization (1660 – 1702)</b> Charles II, James II, Mary II, Glorious revolution, William III Pepys and naval administration. Rooke, The Duke of York, Richelieu,</p>	<p><b>Rodger, <i>Command</i>, chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, &amp; 5</b> <b>Montagu Burrows in Laughton, chapter 3 (Blake)</b> J. D. Davies in Hill, chapter 3 Penrose Fitzgerald in Laughton, chapter 4 (Rooke) Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 2 (Blake) Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 3, (James II) Rodger, <i>Admiralty</i>, chapter 2 Smith, "Idea..." (2004)<sup>ix</sup> Mahan, <i>Influence</i>, chapter 2 Corbett, <i>Fighting Instructions</i>, chapter 4, 5, 6</p>
<p><b>Week Six</b> Oct. 12-16</p>	<p><b>War with France, the 18<sup>th</sup> century context.</b> (1702 – 1727) Anne, George I, the continental powers Imperial context, Anson's explorations, conflict with Spain, challenge from Louis XIV</p>	<p><b>Rodger, <i>Command</i>, chapters, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</b> <b>Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 3</b> Richmond, <i>Statesmen</i>, chapter 3 John Hattendorf in Hill, Chapter 4 Albert Markham in Laughton, Chapter 5 (Anson) Rodger, <i>Admiralty</i>, chapter 3 Fuller, <i>History</i>, chapter 4 (vol. 2) Mahan, <i>Influence</i>, chapter 3 Corbett, <i>Fighting Instructions</i>, chapter 7</p>

<b><u>Block Two:</u></b>	<b><u>The 18<sup>th</sup> Century, 1688 – 1789,</u></b>	
<b>Week Seven</b> Oct. 19-23	<b>The War of Austrian succession. (1727 – 1756)</b> George II, George III Caribbean privateering, naval administration and reform. New ship building techniques and technology	<b>Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 4, (Anson)</b> <b>Corbett, <i>Fighting Instructions</i>, chapter 8, Hattendorf in Hill, chapter 4</b> Syrett, “Peacetime Operations...” (2004). <sup>x</sup> Edmund Fremantle in Laughton, chapter 6 (Hawke) & 7 (Boscawen). Rodger, <i>Admiralty</i> , chapter 4 Richmond, <i>Statesmen</i> , chapter 4 Bayly, “global imperialism,” (2008). <sup>xi</sup>
<b>Week Eight</b> Oct. 26-30	<b>The Navy &amp; State, Seven Years War (1756 – 1775 )</b> Pitt’s strategy. Hawke, Boscawen, Pocock, Rodney, Anson	<b>Rodger, <i>Command</i>, chapters, 19, 20, 21</b> <b>Rodger, <i>Wooden World</i>, chapters, 2, 3, &amp; 7</b> Howlett, “Pocock & Havana...” (2018). <sup>xii</sup> Daniel Baugh in Hill, Chapter 5 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i> , chapter 3 Fuller, <i>History</i> , chapter 7, & 8 (vol. 2)
<b>Week Nine</b> Nov. 2-6	<b>American Revolution ( 1776 – 1783 )</b> Chesapeake Bay, Sandwich, Middleton The Navy at the end of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century, Rodney, Howe	<b>Mahan, <i>Influence</i>, chapter 11, 12, 13, 14,</b> <b>Rodger, <i>Command</i>, chapters, 23, 24, 25</b> T. S. Jackson in Laughton, chapter 9 (Rodney) R. V. Hamilton in Laughton, chapter 8 (Howe) Howlett, “Sir Charles Middleton...” (2017). <sup>xiii</sup> Richmond, <i>Statesmen</i> , chapter 5 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i> , chapter 5 Fuller, <i>History</i> , chapter 9 & 10 (vol. 2)

<p><b>Week Ten</b> Nov. 9-13</p>	<p><b>Band of bothers and Exploration, the officer corps: Cook, Vancouver, Nelson, Collingwood, Hood (1768 – 1794)</b> Mapping the world. Maritime conflict, loss of the “first empire.” Recovery and the maritime strategy of the Revolutionary war</p>	<p><b>Roger Morris in Hill, chapter 8</b> <b>Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 5, (Hood)</b> <b>Corbett, <i>Fighting Instructions</i>, chapter 9</b> Rodger, “officers’ careers...” (2011).<sup>xiv</sup> Rodger, <i>Admiralty</i>, chapter 5 Stern, “Polar maps...” (2016).<sup>xv</sup> Sahlins, “Captain Cook...” (1989).<sup>xvi</sup> Naish, “Achievements...” (1994).<sup>xvii</sup> Davey, “Charting of the Baltic Sea...” (2011).<sup>xviii</sup> Philip Colomb in Laughton, chapters 11 (St. Vincent) &amp; 12 (Nelson), R. V. Hamilton in Laughton, chapter 10 (Hood)</p>
<p><b><u>Block Three</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>French Revolutionary &amp; Napoleonic Wars, 1789 – 1815</u></b></p>	
<p><b>Week Eleven</b> Nov. 16-20</p>	<p><b>Revolution &amp; Reaction ( 1789 – 1805 )</b> Introduction, Tactics, Operations, Administration. The reforms of Middleton &amp; Gambier. Cape St. Vincent, Glorious First of June, The Nile, John Jervis, Nelson, Collingwood, Hood, Howe</p>	<p><b>Rodger, <i>Command</i>, chapters, 28, 29, 30, 31</b> <b>Rothenberg, <i>Napoleonic</i>, chapter 1, 2, 3</b> Richmond, <i>Statesmen</i>, chapter 6, &amp; 7 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 5 Fuller, <i>History</i>, chapter 11 &amp; 12 (vol. 2) Czislak, “Nelson and the Nile...” (2002).<sup>xix</sup> White, “Nelson’s tactics...” (2005).<sup>xx</sup> Palmer, “Cape St. Vincent...” (1991).<sup>xxi</sup></p>

<p><b>Week 12</b> Nov. 23-27</p>	<p><b>Defeating Napoleon, War with America, the death of Nelson</b> (1805 – 1812) Grenville’s policy. Pitt’s naval strategy. Blockade and counter-blockade. Trafalgar. Maritime strategy, the Peninsula, 1812 campaign, frigate actions.</p>	<p><b>Knight, <i>Against Napoleon</i>, chapters 3, 4, 5, 6</b> <b>Rodger, <i>Command</i>, chapters, 32, 33, 34, 35</b> <b>Shulman, “War of 1812...” (1992).</b><sup>xxii</sup> Rothenberg, <i>Napoleonic</i>, chapter 4, 5, 6, 7 Fuller, <i>History</i>, chapter 13, 14, &amp; 15 (vol. 2) Howlett, “Cochrane...” (2014).<sup>xxiii</sup> Fedorak, “Amphibious Operations...” (1988).<sup>xxiv</sup> Lambert, “Meaning of Victory...” (2006).<sup>xxv</sup> Goldenberg, “New England Waters...” (1984).<sup>xxvi</sup> Hall, “Peninsular War...” (1993).<sup>xxvii</sup></p>
<p><b>Week 13</b> Nov. 30- Dec.4</p>	<p><b>Pax Britannica, 1815</b> The Admiralty and Royal Navy in 1816. The future: industrialization and beyond. Abolition of the slave trade, Nelson’s Touch.</p>	<p><b>Knight, <i>Against Napoleon</i>, chapters 8, 9, 12, &amp; 16</b> <b>Rodger, <i>Command</i>, chapter, 36</b> <b>Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 6</b> Richmond, <i>Statesmen</i>, chapter 8 Howlett, “Lord Exmouth...” (2013).<sup>xxviii</sup></p>

## Journal Articles & secondary sources

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- <sup>i</sup> Craig Lambert, "Henry V and the Crossing to France: Reconstructing Naval Operations for the Agincourt Campaign, 1415," *Journal of Medieval History* 43, no. 1 (2017): 24–39.
- <sup>ii</sup> John F. Guilmartin, "The Military Revolution in Warfare at Sea during the Early Modern Era: Technological Origins, Operational Outcomes and Strategic Consequences," *Journal for Maritime Research* 13, no. 2 (November 2011): 129–37.
- <sup>iii</sup> Tom Glasgow, "List of Ships in the Royal Navy from 1539 to 1588 - The Navy from Its Infancy to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada," *The Mariner's Mirror* 56, no. 3 (1970): 299–307.
- <sup>iv</sup> C. S. Goldingham, "The Navy under Henry VII," *The English Historical Review* 33, no. 132 (October 1918): 472–88.
- <sup>v</sup> C. S. L. Davies, "The Administration of the Royal Navy under Henry VIII: The Origins of the Navy Board," *The English Historical Review* 80, no. 315 (April 1965): 268–88.
- <sup>vi</sup> L. S. Bell, J. A. Lee Thorp, and A. Elkerton, "The Sinking of the Mary Rose Warship: A Medieval Mystery Solved?," *Journal of Archaeological Science* 36, no. 1 (January 2009): 166–73.
- <sup>vii</sup> D. W. Waters, "The Elizabethan Navy and the Armada Campaign," *The Mariner's Mirror* 35, no. 2 (1949): 90–138.
- <sup>viii</sup> M. Oppenheim, "The Royal Navy Under Charles I," *The English Historical Review* 8, no. 31 (July 1893): 467–99.
- <sup>ix</sup> Hannah Smith, "The Idea of a Protestant Monarchy in Britain, 1714-1760," *Past & Present*, no. 185 (November 2004): 91–118.
- <sup>x</sup> David Syrett, "A Study of Peacetime Operations: The Royal Navy in the Mediterranean, 1752-5," *The Mariner's Mirror* 90, no. 1 (2004): 42–50.
- <sup>xi</sup> C. A. Bayly, "The First Age of Global Imperialism, c. 1760 - 1830," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 26, no. 2 (July 2008): 28–47.
- <sup>xii</sup> <https://cawarstudies.wordpress.com/2018/06/22/master-of-the-seas-of-the-two-indies-the-naval-career-of-admiral-sir-george-pocock/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> <https://cawarstudies.wordpress.com/2016/12/31/captain-charles-middleton-and-the-seven-years-war/>
- <sup>xiv</sup> N. A. M. Rodger, "Commissioned Officers' Careers in the Royal Navy, 1690-1815," *Journal for Maritime Research* 3, no. 1 (June 2001): 85–129.
- <sup>xv</sup> Harry L. Stern, "Polar Maps: Captain Cook and the Earliest Historical Charts of the Ice Edge in the Chukchi Sea," *Polar Geography* 39, no. 4 (November 2016): 220–27.
- <sup>xvi</sup> Marshall Sahlins, "Captain Cook at Hawaii," *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* 98, no. 4 (December 1989): 371–423.
- <sup>xvii</sup> John Naish, "The Achievements of Captain George Vancouver, A Reassessment After 200 Years," *The Mariner's Mirror* 80, no. 4 (November 1994): 418–30.



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<sup>xviii</sup> James Davey, "The Advancement of Nautical Knowledge: The Hydrographical Office, the Royal Navy and the Charting of the Baltic Sea, 1795-1815," *Journal for Maritime Research* 13, no. 2 (November 2011): 81–103.

<sup>xix</sup> Marianne Czisnik, "Nelson and the Nile: The Creation of Admiral Nelson's Public Image," *The Mariner's Mirror* 88, no. 1 (2002): 41–60.

<sup>xx</sup> Colin White, "The Nelson Touch: The Evolution of Nelson's Tactics at Trafalgar," *Journal for Maritime Research* 7, no. 1 (2005): 123–39.

<sup>xxi</sup> M. A. J. Palmer, "Sir John's Victory: The Battle of Cape St Vincent Reconsidered," *The Mariner's Mirror* 77, no. 1 (1991): 31–46.

<sup>xxii</sup> Mark Russell Shulman, "The Influence of History upon Sea Power: The Navalist Reinterpretation of the War of 1812," *The Journal of Military History* 56, no. 2 (April 1992): 183–206.

<sup>xxiii</sup> <https://airspacehistorian.wordpress.com/2014/03/25/thomas-cochrane-and-the-battle-of-the-basque-roads-april-1809/>

<sup>xxiv</sup> Charles John Fedorak, "The Royal Navy and British Amphibious Operations during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars," *Military Affairs* 52, no. 3 (July 1988): 141–46.

<sup>xxv</sup> Andrew Lambert, "'The Glory of England': Nelson, Trafalgar and the Meaning of Victory," *The Great Circle* 28, no. 1 (2006): 3–12.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Joseph A. Goldenberg, "The Royal Navy's Blockade in New England Waters, 1812-1815," *The International History Review* 6, no. 3 (August 1984): 424–39.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Christopher D. Hall, "The Royal Navy and the Peninsular War," *The Mariner's Mirror* 79, no. 4 (1993): 403–18.

<sup>xxviii</sup> <https://airspacehistorian.wordpress.com/2013/11/16/nelsons-touch-lord-exmouth-and-the-bombardment-of-algiers-1816/>