WILLIAMS-MYSTIC MARITIME STUDIES PROGRAM

Executive Director: Thomas Van Winkle

Professor: Christian Thorne. Associate Professors: L. Gilbert, K. Hall. Assistant Professor: T. Pusack. Postdoctoral Fellow in Maritime History: Alicia Maggard.

The Williams College-Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program offers students a unique opportunity to explore the ocean, travel the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts, and conduct original primary research of their own design in the humanities and sciences. Williams-Mystic is considered the coastal and ocean studies campus of Williams College. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors of all majors welcome to apply. A term at Williams-Mystic includes credit for one semester plus one Winter Study requirement, as well writing-intensive course credit. Four Williams courses are offered as an interdisciplinary curriculum in the semester-long program based at Mystic Seaport, in Mystic, Connecticut (06355): Americans and the Maritime Environment, Literature of the Oceans, Marine Policy, and either Marine Ecology or Oceanographic Processes. Travel includes an offshore voyage on the open ocean sailing aboard a tall ship, a seminar along the Pacific Coast, and a Louisiana field seminar, all of which are cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary exercises. Students live in historic, cooperative, co-ed houses at Mystic Seaport, the world’s largest maritime museum, and have full access to world-class maritime collections, a maritime library, a state-of-the-art Marine Sciences teaching and research center, and diverse coastal habitats (where field research can be undertaken in a wide variety of environments, ranging from tide pools and salt marshes to sandy beaches and estuaries). Students also participate in maritime skills under professional instruction, with choices such as ship carving, music of the sea, boat building, or small boat handling and sailing. Williams-Mystic seeks candidates who are willing to try new things and work in a compelling academic environment. No sailing experience necessary. Participation in Williams-Mystic can also be used in partial fulfillment of the Maritime Studies Concentration at Williams. Admission is competitive, and interested students should email wmadmissions@williams.edu, call 860-572-5359, or visit the Williams-Mystic website.

BIOL 231  (F)(S)  Marine Ecology

Cross-listings: BIOL 231  MAST 311

Secondary Cross-listing

Using the principles of evolutionary biology and experimental ecology, this course examines the processes that control the diversity, abundance and distribution of marine organisms. Major marine communities, including estuaries, the rocky shore, sandy beaches, salt marshes, coral reefs, and the deep sea are discussed in detail.

Class Format: including coastal and near-shore field trips, 10 days offshore, and a laboratory or field research project

Requirements/Evaluation: two tests, a research project, and a presentation

Prerequisites: BIOL 101 or GEOS/MAST 104, or permission of instructor

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: offered only at Mystic Seaport

Distributions: (D3)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

BIOL 231  (D3) MAST 311  (D3)

Attributes: ENVI Natural World Electives  EVST Living Systems Courses  EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01  TBA  Tim J. Pusack

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01  TBA  Tim J. Pusack

ENGL 26  (W)  Reading Moby-Dick on a Whaler

If you've never read Moby-Dick, you might still think that's a heroic adventure story about humanity's struggle against the sea—the sort of book, in other
words, that we give young readers, a cracking yarn, like *Treasure Island* only much longer. You might wonder, then, why so many people think it's the greatest novel ever written. You might be all the more puzzled to learn that no-one liked *Moby-Dick* when it was first published. Almost nobody read it. Herman Melville died thinking the book had been a total failure. *Moby-Dick* is peculiar, to be sure: an adventure story without much adventure nor even much story, a novel that doesn't read like a novel—a funny, joking, frightened, philosophical, and extravagant kind of book, a book that pushes readers to figure out their most fundamental attitudes towards the planet. In this class, we will read *Moby-Dick* and only *Moby-Dick*, and we will do so while living in a nineteenth-century whaling port, at Williams-Mystic, the College's coastal and ocean studies campus in Mystic, CT. Students will discuss *Moby-Dick* in the morning and learn nineteenth-century maritime skills in the afternoon: blacksmithing, carving, chanting, boat building, letterpress printing, sailmaking, etc. They will have extensive access to nineteenth-century tall ships throughout.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 10-page paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** first-years and sophomores

**Grading:** pass/fail only

**Materials/Lab Fee:** $530

**Attributes:** TRVL Winter Study Travel Course

Winter 2020

TVL Section: 01 Cancelled

**ENGL 231 (F)(S) Literature of the Sea**

**Cross-listings:** MAST 231 ENGL 231

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Taking advantage of our maritime museum, coastal setting, and three field seminars, we study canonical and lesser-known novelists, short-story writers, dramatists, and poets who set their works in the watery world, often in the exact places where we travel as a class. We read, for example—depending on fall or spring semester—Ernest Hemingway when sailing on the Straits of Florida, John Steinbeck when exploring Cannery Row on Monterey Bay, and Mark Twain on a steamboat on the Mississippi. We read Kate Chopin on the sands of the Gulf of Mexico, Rudyard Kipling out on Georges Bank, and Herman Melville's masterpiece *Moby-Dick* aboard Mystic Seaport's historic whaleship, the *Charles W. Morgan*, a vessel nearly identical to the vessel he climbed aboard at age twenty-one. In the classroom we examine these works through a mixture of lecture, small-group discussion, and writing. To further appreciation and analysis, this interdisciplinary course uses students' emerging knowledge of maritime history and marine science.

**Class Format:** weekly lectures, including coastal and near-shore field trips and ten days at sea

**Requirements/Evaluation:** regular papers, class participation, journal-writing, and a final paper

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

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<th>MAST 231 (D1)</th>
<th>ENGL 231 (D1)</th>
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**Attributes:** AMST Arts in Context Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01 TBA Christian Thorne

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01 TBA Mary K. Bercaw Edwards

**ENVI 351 (F)(S) Marine Policy**

**Cross-listings:** ENVI 351 PSCI 319 MAST 351
This seminar utilizes the interdisciplinary background of the other Williams-Mystic courses to examine national and international contemporary issues in our relationship with our ocean and marine environment. This seminar takes a topical approach to the study of ocean and coastal law and policy, examining climate change, fisheries, coastal zone management, admiralty law, marine biodiversity, ocean and coastal pollution, and ocean governance.

**Class Format:** discussions, guest lectures by active professionals, and includes coastal and near-shore field trips, and 10 days offshore

**Requirements/Evaluation:** an independent research paper, a presentation, and a final exam

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributions:** (D2)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
ENVI 351 (D2) PSCI 319 (D2) MAST 351 (D2)

**Attributes:** ENVI Environmental Policy EXPE Experiential Education Courses POEC International Political Economy Courses

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**GEOS 210 (F)(S) Oceanographic Processes**

**Cross-listings:** MAST 211 GEOS 210

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course examines ocean and coastal environmental science issues including carbon dioxide and the ocean’s role in climate, El Niño and other ocean-atmosphere oscillations that influence our weather, coastal erosion and other hazards, coastal pollution, and fisheries. The focus is on controlling processes with regional comparisons. Blue water oceanography is conducted in the Atlantic and comparative coastal oceanography includes trips to southern New England shores, and the West and Gulf coasts of the US as part of the Williams-Mystic program.

**Class Format:** including coastal and near-shore field trips, 11 days offshore, and a laboratory or field research project

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two tests, a research project, and a presentation

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributions:** (D3)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

MAST 211 (D3) GEOS 210 (D3)

**Attributes:** ENVI Natural World Electives EVST Living Systems Courses EXPE Experiential Education Courses GEOS Group A Electives - Climate + Oceans

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**HIST 352 (F)(S) American Maritime History** (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** HIST 352 MAST 352

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course surveys American maritime history from the colonial era to the 21st century. We will consider the dynamic relationship between the sea
and American life, and the broad influence that each has had on the other. Special emphasis will be placed on how diverse peoples shaped and experienced America’s maritime past. We will sample from different fields of historical inquiry including labor, environmental, cultural, political, technological, and energy history in order to gain a deeper understanding of America’s maritime heritage.

**Class Format:** classroom discussion as well as field seminars

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, weekly response papers, three longer papers

**Prerequisites:** BIOL 101 or GEOS/MAST 104, or permission of instructor

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 352 (D2) MAST 352 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students must complete weekly 1-page papers, two 5-page papers, and a final 10- to 15-page paper. Additionally, students will participate in several in-class writing workshops and peer critiques that cover argument and style. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Maritime activity has long provided opportunities for some while burdening others with tremendous costs. From the slave trade and the encounters between native and European mariners to the power wielded by multi-national shipping conglomerates, this course investigates contests over power, empire, and capitalism as they played out on the maritime stage.

**Attributes:** AMST Space and Place Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives EXPE Experiential Education Courses HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01 TBA Alicia C. Maggard

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 TBA Alicia C. Maggard

**MAST 211 (F)(S) Oceanographic Processes**

**Cross-listings:** MAST 211 GEOS 210

**Primary Cross-listing**

This course examines ocean and coastal environmental science issues including carbon dioxide and the ocean’s role in climate, El Niño and other ocean-atmosphere oscillations that influence our weather, coastal erosion and other hazards, coastal pollution, and fisheries. The focus is on controlling processes with regional comparisons. Blue water oceanography is conducted in the Atlantic and comparative coastal oceanography includes trips to southern New England shores, and the West and Gulf coasts of the US as part of the Williams-Mystic program.

**Class Format:** including coastal and near-shore field trips, 11 days offshore, and a laboratory or field research project

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two tests, a research project, and a presentation

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributions:** (D3)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

MAST 211 (D3) GEOS 210 (D3)

**Attributes:** ENVI Natural World Electives EVST Living Systems Courses EXPE Experiential Education Courses GEOS Group A Electives - Climate + Oceans

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01 TBA Lisa A. Gilbert

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01 TBA Lisa A. Gilbert
MAST 231 (F)(S) Literature of the Sea

Cross-listings: MAST 231 ENGL 231

Primary Cross-listing

Taking advantage of our maritime museum, coastal setting, and three field seminars, we study canonical and lesser-known novelists, short-story writers, dramatists, and poets who set their works in the watery world, often in the exact places where we travel as a class. We read, for example—depending on fall or spring semester—Ernest Hemingway when sailing on the Straits of Florida, John Steinbeck when exploring Cannery Row on Monterey Bay, and Mark Twain on a steamboat on the Mississippi. We read Kate Chopin on the sands of the Gulf of Mexico, Rudyard Kipling out on Georges Bank, and Herman Melville’s masterpiece Moby-Dick aboard Mystic Seaport’s historic whaleship, the Charles W. Morgan, a vessel nearly identical to the vessel he climbed aboard at age twenty-one. In the classroom we examine these works through a mixture of lecture, small-group discussion, and writing. To further appreciation and analysis, this interdisciplinary course uses students’ emerging knowledge of maritime history and marine science.

Class Format: weekly lectures, including coastal and near-shore field trips and ten days at sea

Requirements/Evaluation: regular papers, class participation, journal-writing, and a final paper

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: offered only at Mystic Seaport

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MAST 231 (D1) ENGL 231 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 TBA Christian Thorne

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01 TBA Mary K. Bercaw Edwards

MAST 311 (F)(S) Marine Ecology

Cross-listings: BIOL 231 MAST 311

Primary Cross-listing

Using the principles of evolutionary biology and experimental ecology, this course examines the processes that control the diversity, abundance and distribution of marine organisms. Major marine communities, including estuaries, the rocky shore, sandy beaches, salt marshes, coral reefs, and the deep sea are discussed in detail.

Class Format: including coastal and near-shore field trips, 10 days offshore, and a laboratory or field research project

Requirements/Evaluation: two tests, a research project, and a presentation

Prerequisites: BIOL 101 or GEOS/MAST 104, or permission of instructor

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: offered only at Mystic Seaport

Distributions: (D3)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
BIOL 231 (D3) MAST 311 (D3)

Attributes: ENVI Natural World Electives EVST Living Systems Courses EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 TBA Tim J. Pusack

Spring 2020
**MAST 351 (F)(S) Marine Policy**

**Cross-listings:** ENVI 351  PSCI 319  MAST 351

**Primary Cross-listing**

This seminar utilizes the interdisciplinary background of the other Williams-Mystic courses to examine national and international contemporary issues in our relationship with our ocean and marine environment. This seminar takes a topical approach to the study of ocean and coastal law and policy, examining climate change, fisheries, coastal zone management, admiralty law, marine biodiversity, ocean and coastal pollution, and ocean governance.

**Class Format:** discussions, guest lectures by active professionals, and includes coastal and near-shore field trips, and 10 days offshore

**Requirements/Evaluation:** an independent research paper, a presentation, and a final exam

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENVI 351 (D2) PSCI 319 (D2) MAST 351 (D2)

**Attributes:** ENVI Environmental Policy  EXPE Experiential Education Courses  POEC International Political Economy Courses

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**Fall 2019**

LEC Section: 01  TBA  Catherine Robinson Hall

**Spring 2020**

LEC Section: 01  TBA  Catherine Robinson Hall

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**MAST 352 (F)(S) American Maritime History (DPE) (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** HIST 352  MAST 352

**Primary Cross-listing**

This course surveys American maritime history from the colonial era to the 21st century. We will consider the dynamic relationship between the sea and American life, and the broad influence that each has had on the other. Special emphasis will be placed on how diverse peoples shaped and experienced America's maritime past. We will sample from different fields of historical inquiry including labor, environmental, cultural, political, technological, and energy history in order to gain a deeper understanding of America's maritime heritage.

**Class Format:** classroom discussion as well as field seminars

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, weekly response papers, three longer papers

**Prerequisites:** BIOL 101 or GEOS/MAST 104, or permission of instructor

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 352 (D2) MAST 352 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students must complete weekly 1-page papers, two 5-page papers, and a final 10- to 15-page paper. Additionally, students will participate in several in-class writing workshops and peer critiques that cover argument and style. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Maritime activity has long provided opportunities for some while burdening others with tremendous costs. From the slave trade and the encounters between native and European mariners to the power wielded by multi-national shipping conglomerates, this course investigates contests over power, empire, and capitalism as they played out on the maritime stage.

**Attributes:** AMST Space and Place Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  EXPE Experiential Education Courses  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada  HIST Group P Electives - Premodern
PSCI 319  (F)(S)  Marine Policy

Cross-listings:  ENVI 351  PSCI 319  MAST 351

Secondary Cross-listing

This seminar utilizes the interdisciplinary background of the other Williams-Mystic courses to examine national and international contemporary issues in our relationship with our ocean and marine environment. This seminar takes a topical approach to the study of ocean and coastal law and policy, examining climate change, fisheries, coastal zone management, admiralty law, marine biodiversity, ocean and coastal pollution, and ocean governance.

Class Format: discussions, guest lectures by active professionals, and includes coastal and near-shore field trips, and 10 days offshore

Requirements/Evaluation: an independent research paper, a presentation, and a final exam

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: offered only at Mystic Seaport

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENVI 351 (D2) PSCI 319 (D2) MAST 351 (D2)

Attributes: ENVI Environmental Policy  EXPE Experiential Education Courses  POEC International Political Economy Courses

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01  TBA  Catherine Robinson Hall

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01  TBA  Catherine Robinson Hall