East Carolina University
14 – 28 July 2013
Summer Study Abroad Program
Tavern of the Seas:
The Maritime and Urban Heritage of Cape Town,
South Africa
HIST 6992:
The Maritime History and Archaeology of South Africa
Summer II Semester 2012
Instructor: Dr. Lynn B. Harris

Office: Eller House 201
Office Hours: M, W, F: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Course Description

This is a selected course contributing to three of six hours of credit for the summer study abroad program. Maritime History of South Africa will emphasize the maritime and urban heritage of Cape Town, South Africa. Summer abroad activities will highlight the contribution of this strategic southern African seaport to global maritime history. We at the dominant role that ecological and heritage tourism currently play in South Africa.

We will explore the impact of the Cape sea port through time on the economy of the various seafaring nations and analyze the array of social interactions between seafarers, colonists and indigenous peoples through historical and archaeological journal articles and an array of primary sources including government documents, correspondence, period newspapers and material culture. Local Maritime Archaeologists and Museum Curators will present their research to our class. We will offer tours to maritime research centers and trips to local shipwrecks. The class includes a central focus on shipwreck management issues with discussions about public involvement and development of education courses, underwater heritage trails, conservation and curation of shipwreck artifact collections, and international research partnerships in maritime history and underwater archaeology.

The study will include at least five days documenting a beached shipwreck using a variety of traditional archaeological techniques. Students will conduct research in the Cape Town library and archives to more fully understand the historical context of the shipwrecks within South African history. Shipwreck documentation projects include Thomas Tucker a World War II American supply ship and the Kakapo (1900) a South African supply ship that represent both South African and United States heritage. The Thomas Tucker is included on the South African shipwreck trail and will expose students to maritime heritage tourism concepts, plus add to the archaeological information on the wreck for trail stewards and heritage stakeholders.
Course Requirements:

Paper on a selected shipwreck (10 pages)……………………………………20%
Classroom discussion and group reports………………………………………20%
Daily academic journal entries on sites visited in South Africa………………20%
Paper selected African maritime history issue (10 pages)……………………..40%

Responsibilities of Students:

1. Attend all classes held before departure for Cape Town, South Africa.
2. Complete all assigned group reports or projects.
3. Attend all events and sites listed on the trip itinerary.
4. Submit 10-page essays by last pre-departure class.
5. Submit a daily academic journal on July 30.
6. Submit a 10-page paper on or before July 30.

Schedule of Classroom Meetings:

Pre-Class Communications: Various emails and announcements to students via email distribution list and web site: http://core.ecu.edu/hist/wilburnk/Stud (6:00-9:00 p.m.)

June 23:      Maritime History of Cape Town (5:00-9:00 p.m.)
June 30:      Underwater Archaeology and Management of Shipwrecks around Cape Town (5:00-9:00 p.m.)
July 7:        Maritime Topics and Final Instructions for Travel (5:00-9:00 p.m.)
July 30:      All Program Assignments Due

Selected Readings

Cape Town Shipwreck Articles and Theses

Boshoff, J., et al.

Harris, Lynn

Harris, Lynn

Harris, Lynn

Sadler, Nigel

Turner, Malcolm
Shipwrecks and Salvage in South Africa. Struik Publishers, 1999

Webster, Jane

Werz, Bruno


*Diving up the Human Past: Perspectives of Maritime Archaeology with Specific Reference to Developments in South Africa until 1996.* (BAR International Series 749). Oxford: Archaeopress, 1999

Sadler, Nigel


**Cape Town City Archaeology Reports**

Hall, Martin.


Malan, Antonio


Web Sites
http://www.capegrace.com/blog/this-is-cape-town/kakapo-shipwreck-of-1900/