

AMH 4930:1JD1: History Research Seminar
The American Coast
Spring 2024
Tuesday 3-6PM, Anderson 0032

Professor Jack E. Davis

(he, him, his)

Website: people.clas.ufl.edu/davisjac/

Fall 2021 davisjac@ufl.edu (best means for communicating with the prof)

Ofc. Flint 235

Ofc. Hrs.: Tuesday 1pm-3pm (held on campus)

352-273-3398



In this reading-, writing-, and research-based course, students will explore the cultural and natural history of the US seacoast (Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf). The seminar will use history to help us understand consequential decisions, actions, and events that predetermined the course of the country's relationship with the coast, a course that has led to unprecedented environmental challenges the nation faces in the 21st century. With the ultimate objective of producing a work

of original research, students will analyze human-nature relationships, migration trends, development patterns, and so-called “natural” disasters, while searching for examples from history that might serve as usable guides for today and the future.

Students should finish this course with an expanded knowledge of the integral place of the seacoast in American history. A principal ambition of the course is to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the American experience. If we incorporate the human relationship with the environment into our study of the past, we gain clearer insight into the identity, beliefs, and values of human groups and how each defined its relationship with others and the larger world.

Course Objectives:

- * The principal objective of the course is to complete an approximately 20-page paper of high literary merit and original concept and research. (The paper will be preceded by a prospectus and penultimate draft.)
- * Developing literary skills central to the profession and life after college.
- * Introducing the student to model research and writing.
- * Promoting critical thinking about the human relationship with nature and its impact in the social relationships among different human groups.
- * Expanding one’s knowledge of American coastal history and its place in the larger American experience.

Attendance:

Attendance is imperative in a course that meets once a week. Excused absences include documented medical issues, documented family emergencies, religious holidays, and documented university business, such as traveling with the marching band for intercollegiate competition. An email from students alerting the professor of a forthcoming absence is an appreciated courtesy but does not count as an excused absence without proper documentation. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Each additional will result in a 5-percent deduction from the class participation grade.

UF Holidays:

Spring break March 9-16

Course Requirements:

- * Final Paper 50%
- * 3-page prospectus 10%
- * Penultimate draft 10%
- * 3-5-page research essay 20%
- * class attendance and participation (to include treasure hunts) 10%
(5% reduction from participation grade for each absence after 1 freebie)
- * Grammar and Style Guide exercise (factored into all writing assignments)

Due Dates: Due dates are enforced. All work must be posted on Canvas *AND* emailed separately to the professor in Word format by the due date and time noted in the syllabus and on Canvas. Due

dates are a part of larger life and can mean the difference between success and failure, hooking the big one and losing out. In the classroom, they exist for a reason: to prepare you for life and to ensure a level playing field for all. Canvas will not accept work after the due date; nor will the professor. We all have heavy workloads during the semester; a pleading email before the due date will not gain you privilege over your classmates. Plan for the due dates, manage your time around them, and stick to them. **AGAIN, ALL WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CANVAS AND EMAILED SEPARATELY IN WORD (NOT PDF) FORMAT TO THE PROFESSOR, WHO CANNOT GRADE PAPERS ON CANVAS OR PROPERLY DOWNLOAD SUBMITTED WORK FROM CANVAS.** Submission, in other words, is a two-step process.

Course Grading Scale (see the UF grading scale at the end of syllabus):

A+ =97-100

A =94-96

A- =90-93

B+ =87-89

B =84-86

B- =80-83

C+ =77-79

C =74-76

C- =70-73

D =65-69

Assignments not completed earn a 0

Plagiarized assignment (see plagiarism section below) earn a 0

Assignments not turned in before or by stated due date will not be accepted.

Assigned Texts:

Jack E. Davis, *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* (provided to you at my cost, \$8, unless you can find a cheaper copy)

David Griffith, *The Estuary's Gift: An Atlantic Coast Cultural Biography*

David Helvarg, *The Golden Shore: California's Love Affair with the Sea*

Pavla Šimkova, *Urban Archipelago: An Environmental History of the Boston Harbor Islands*

Week I (Jan 9): Introduction: Our Coastal Focus

Why and how we should study the coast, and why we write history, with a bonus warmup haiku.

Week II (Jan 16): Defining the Research Problem, an Origin Story, and Let's Talk Style

Readings:

Davis, 1-19; Šimkova, 1-17.

Grammar and Style Guide Exercise Due on Canvas by 11:59 pm January 15

Week III (Jan 23): The Coast as Estuary and Native Shores

Readings:

Davis, 23-40; Griffith, 5-45; Helvarg, 15-34.

Week IV (Jan 30): Old World Meets so-called New World

Readings:

Davis, 41-92; Helvarg, 35-61.

Rebecca Henner, Gator Country, talk @ 6pm

Week V (Feb 6): Let's Talk Research

3-5-page research essay due February 5, 11:59pm on Canvas (ENSURE YOU FOLLOW THE STYLE GUIDE)

Presentations to class

Week VI (Feb 13): Work on Prospectus

No class, Prospectus due February 16 11:59pm

Week VII (Feb 20): Pounding down Stakes

Readings:

Šimkova, 18-50; Davis, 97-149.

Week VIII (Feb 27): Boston Hawbaw

Readings:

Šimkova, 51-145.

Week IX (Mar 5): Rethinking the Harbor and Bay

Readings:

Šimkova, 146-204.

Week X (Mar 9-16): Spring Break

Week XI (Mar 19): California, Land of Milk and Honey—and Earthquakes and Tsunamis

Readings: Helvarg, 62-320.

Week XII (Mar 26): Research Week

Work on papers

Week XIII (April 2): Remaking Gulf Shores

Readings: Davis, 150-508.

Week XIV (April 9): Fishy Waters

Readings:
Griffith, 47-144.

Penultimate drafts of research papers due (penultimate does not mean a rough draft)

Week XV (April 16): Epilogues and Commencements

Reading:
Šimkova, 205-14; Helvarg, 321-30; Davis, 509-30; Griffith, 145-67

First of the student presentations

Week XVI (April 23) The Last Hurrah

Last of the student presentations, and final papers due 11:59pm April 23 (tonight!)

Course Requirements Descriptions:

All written work for the course must be written in 12-point double-spaced print and submitted on Canvas by the due date and time *with additionally a copy in Word format emailed to the professor*. Your work must also be presented in third-person language.

Course Attendance: Class participation is required. Students are expected to come to class for lectures and prepared to participate in discussions. A missed class after 1 free absences will result in a deduction from your class participation grade. An absence is considered *excused* if there is an *acceptable reason* according to UF policy (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>). Examples of acceptable reasons are medical illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of an excused absence and to provide documentation of an acceptable reason. Otherwise, the absence will be considered *unexcused* and will result in a quiz grade of zero if a quiz is administered when the student is absent. Whenever possible, the instructor should be notified prior to the absence. When this is not possible (e.g., due to unexpected emergency or illness), the instructor should be notified as soon as possible.

Grammar and Style Guide exercise can be found on my Canvas site. Download and answer the

questions by circling that which you believe to be the correct response. You will be required to follow the rules of the guide in all writing assignments for the course. If you fail to show proof of having completed the guide before any one of the writing assignments is due, you will lose 5 points from the assignment grade. Additionally, if you fail to follow the standards laid out in the guide, up to 5 points will be deducted from your assignment grade.

Research Essay: This paper should discuss general methods of research you have developed, how you use secondary sources and primary sources in a research paper, what these sources do differently and similarly, and why a quality research paper should include both. Additionally, the paper should discuss useful repositories—brick-and-mortar and online—of research material. Finally, share a clever method you have discovered for accessing research information.

Prospectus: The prospectus should run around 3 pages of narrative with two or more pages of a preliminary bibliography. The prospectus should open by introducing the scope and character of your research project. It should then identify questions that will frame the research and writing and lead you to a central argument. Finally, the prospectus should discuss the organization of the paper.

Research Paper: In addition to what is stated at the top of the syllabus, we will discuss the research paper throughout the course. You should look to either or both *The Gulf* or *Urban Archipelago* as models of scholarship and style of presentation. Griffith and Halvarg are excellent books too, but their approach using first-person narrative is different from a conventional academic work. One can argue that Davis in some ways tests the boundaries of convention.

Other Business:

Plagiarism and Honesty Code:

Keep in mind that your written assignments must represent original work. You cannot copy the words, phrases, arguments, ideas, and conclusions of someone else or of another source (including Internet sources) without giving proper credit to the person or source by using both **quotation marks** and a **footnote**. Do not cobble together paragraphs or passages of separate texts and then try to claim that you have done original and legitimate work. You must write with your own ideas and in your own words. If you copy the words of someone else without putting those words in quotation marks, **REGARDLESS OF CITING THE SOURCE**, you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism is theft, and it is academic dishonesty. You can be reported to the Dean of Students office for plagiarism, and the incident may then become a permanent part of your academic record. Plagiarism **will** earn you a failing grade in the course, a grade that is final and that cannot be made up. If you have any questions about how you are citing or using sources, come to me for the answers.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have

neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

Again, please consult with me if you have any questions or concerns.

In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

Classroom Assistance:

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Click here (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>) to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Health Considerations in the Classroom

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

* If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have

been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

- * You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

- * Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

- * Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

- * If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu<<mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu>>) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website<<https://click.info.gator360.ufl.edu/?qs=8f0d5e01a3f7385148f144e2089093522a358a8d85cb9db73c31675d3c5e5c0d27748d40c212f544822551342f1912ea5b4f2b890d5952e8>> for more information.

- * Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

- * If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

- * Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Online Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their

Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Resources Information:

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601.

Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420.

General study skills and tutoring. Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138.

Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

History Majors:

If you are a history major or minor and wish to receive important announcements on courses, scholarships, awards, and the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, please sign on to the history department listserv. Compose a message to: majordomo@clas.ufl.edu. In the text of the message, type the following: subscribe hist-ba@history.ufl.edu

Alpata: A Journal of History

Keep in mind that the undergraduate- and graduate-student members of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society at the University of Florida publish an academic journal each spring. In the fall, the journal editors will be sending out a call for submissions (articles and book reviews) to the journal. The journal is also looking for talented students who would like to serve on the editorial board. Please contact me if you're interested.

UF Grading Scale

A = 4.0

A- = 3.67

B+ = 3.33

B = 3.0

B- = 2.67

C+ = 2.33

C = 2.0

C- = 1.67

D+ = 1.33

D = 1.0

D- = 0.67

E = 0.0

E1 = 0.0 Stopped attending or participating prior to end of class

I (incomplete) = 0.0