

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MARITIME HISTORY

SYLLABUS 2022–2023



GCMH Students and Faculty at Battleship Cove and USS Constitution, 2022

This program provides students with an opportunity to work closely with a professional historian for a year on a research subject of their choice. Our students learn how historical knowledge is created, and how that process informs our understanding of the uses and abuses of history. They form close bonds both with their supervisors and with each other, and they deepen their knowledge of maritime and naval history. Students leave our program better prepared to understand and contextualize the complex, often wicked, problems they will face in the modern operating environment. The skills they learn in the program make them more effective communicators and more thoughtful leaders.

In addition to the normal student workload, GCMH students take an additional elective and write an essay of approximately 10,000 words (~35 pages) over the course of the year. The essay investigates a topic in maritime history and seeks to make an original contribution to historical scholarship. Our graduates have gone on to publish their work in professional and academic journals.

We are one of the Naval War College's three certificate programs, alongside Ethics in Emerging Military Technologies and the Stockdale Leadership Development Concentration. Students who graduate from our program receive an official certificate signed by the Dean of Academics and the Provost and awarded by the President of the Naval War College. The certificate is added to their transcript and personnel file.

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2. GCMH Requirements. This document lays out the expectations for the program through all three terms. It includes the rhythm of coursework, workshops, other events, and the deliverables that build towards your final essay.
3. Guidelines and expectations for the GCMH Essay.
4. The HHC Speaker and Seminar Series agenda for the year.
5. The GCMH Workshop agenda for the year.
6. A discussion of what to expect at your oral defense.
7. A sample GCMH prospectus.

POINTS OF CONTACT

GCMH Directors

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**GCMH COMBINED CALENDAR
2022–2023**

Date	Event / Deadline	Location	Time
August 9	HHC SSS, Paul Kennedy	Spruance	1200
August 18	Workshop	L-306	1400
September 12	HHC SSS, Craig Symonds	C-138	1200
September 22	Workshop	L-306	1400
October 12	HHC SSS, Heather Haley	C-138	1200
October 20	Workshop	L-306	1400
October 26	Prospectus due		1700
October 27	Off-cycle GCMH WIPSEM (TBC)	L-306	1400
November 7	HHC SSS, Geoff Till	C-138	1200
November 8	Off-cycle Certificate Ceremony (TBC)		
November 16	Workshop	L-306	1400
December 12	HHC SSS, Dave Oliver and Anand Toprani	C-138	1200
December 16	Workshop	L-306	1400
January 18	HHC SSS, GCMH WIPSEM	C-138	1200
January 23	HHC SSS, GCMH WIPSEM	C-138	1200
January 30	Workshop	C-138	1200
February 10	Confirmation of Status due		1700
March 6	HHC SSS, John Maurer	C-138	1200
March 7	Off-cycle Certificate Ceremony (TBC)		
March 15	Workshop or ship trip	L-306	1400
April 17	HHC SSS, Ryan Wadle	C-138	1200
April 19	Ship trip		
May 15	HHC SSS, Evan Wilson	C-138	1200
May 10	Workshop and off-cycle WIPSEM (latter TBC)	L-306	1400
May 15	GCMH Essay due		2359
May 18–25	Oral Defenses		
June 15	Certificate Ceremony		
June 16	NWC Graduation		

All events and deadlines are subject to change. Details can be found in the pages that follow.

GCMH REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded a Graduate Certificate in Maritime History, you must complete the following requirements each term. Failure to complete these requirements will cause you to be dropped from the program.

FALL / TERM 1

Fall Term Time Commitments

Required Courses:

- Core course (S&W for ILC; JMO for SLC).
- EL770A “War at Sea in the Age of Sail.”

Required Workshops:

- Monthly HHC Seminar and Speaker Series.
- Monthly GCMH Workshops.
- GCMH WIPSEMs for off-cycle students.

Required Events:

- Certificate ceremony for off-cycle students.
- Other events as assigned.

Fall Term Deliverable

1. Your **PROSPECTUS** is due by 1700 on Wednesday of Week 10 of the Electives Calendar (**October 26, 2022**). Submit your prospectus to your supervisor and to gcmh@usnwc.edu.

Your prospectus should set out your essay’s goals. In considering your topic, you must be able to show that you have developed a new approach to the current scholarship and that there are sufficient accessible primary sources to allow you to complete your project. Your prospectus should consist of approximately five double-spaced pages that explain the research question you’ve identified, why it offers a new approach, and lists the primary and secondary sources that you have consulted or plan to consult. It should be prepared in close consultation with your supervisor. Please see the sample prospectus for more information.

Standards for Advancement

The GCMH Directors will assess your performance in EL770A and your prospectus. While there is no grade threshold for EL770A, we expect that you will demonstrate proficiency in reading comprehension, class discussion, and writing assignments. We expect your prospectus to demonstrate the potential to make a new contribution to historical scholarship, and we expect you to show that it is methodologically viable. If all these conditions are met, you will be admitted to the second term of the GCMH program.

WINTER / TERM 2

Winter Term Time Commitments

Required Courses:

- Core course (TSDM for ILC; S&P for SLC).
- EL770C “Seapower in the Age of Steam.”
- Leadership in the Profession of Arms (LPA).

Required Workshops:

- Monthly HHC Seminar and Speaker Series.
- Monthly GCMH Workshops.

Required Events:

- Certificate ceremony for off-cycle students.
- Other events as assigned.

Winter Term Deliverables

1. Present a 20-minute survey of your project at one of the **GCMH WIPSEMs** included in the HHC Seminar and Speaker Series (**January 18, 23, or 30, 2023**).
2. Your **CONFIRMATION OF STATUS** (3,000 words) is due to your supervisor by 1700 on Friday of Week 10 of Electives (**February 10, 2023**).

By the end of Week 10 of the electives period of your second term, you will be expected to demonstrate progress towards completing your essay by submitting approximately 3,000 words to your supervisor. Discuss the format and topic of this paper with your supervisor at the beginning of your second term. It may take the form of a stand-alone essay for submission to the CNO’s Essay Contest. It may also serve as a significant portion of your final essay, but that may not be possible in all cases. One common approach is to write a draft introduction for the final essay followed by a detailed outline. Whatever form it takes, it should be useful and demonstrate progress.

Standards for Advancement

Your supervisor will determine if you have submitted a satisfactory confirmation of status. The GCMH Directors and your supervisor will assess your performance in the WIPSEM. If your project continues to be viable, you will be admitted to the third term of the GCMH program.

SPRING / TERM 3

Spring Term Time Commitments

Required Courses:

- Core course (JMO for ILC; NSDM for SLC).
- A maritime history elective from the GCMH-approved list (TBD).

Required Workshops:

- Monthly HHC Seminar and Speaker Series.
- Monthly GCMH Workshops.
- GCMH WIPSEMs for off-cycle students.

Required Events:

- Oral defense.
- Certificate ceremony.
- Other events as assigned.

Spring Term Deliverable

1. Your **GCMH ESSAY** is due to your supervisor by 2359 on Monday of Week 9 of Electives (**May 15, 2023**). See detailed instructions and standards on the next page.

GCMH ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

Argument and Evidence

A GCMH Essay shall:

1. Maintain a consistent, original argument;
2. Engage with existing historiography;
3. Be based on original sources, to the extent possible.

Length

A GCMH Essay should be more than 6,000 words but fewer than 16,000 words. Word counts include the footnotes but do not include the abstract, biographical note, or the bibliography. A good target to aim for is 10,000 words (approximately 35 pages).

Submissions must be word documents and include:

- The GCMH title pages provided by your supervisor;
- An abstract of fewer than 200 words;
- A biographical note of fewer than 100 words;
- Manuscript.

Required Specifications & Formatting

All GCMH Essays must adhere to the following requirements:

- **Font:** 12pt, Times New Roman;
- **Spacing:** Double (do not add extra space between paragraphs, except at the start of new section);
- **Margins:** 1 inch all around;
- **Alignment:** Left align, ragged right edge. Use a .5 inch indentation for the first line of all paragraphs that do not start a new section;
- **Section headings:** Bold, left align;
- **Page numbers:** 12pt, Times New Roman, top right;
- **Footnotes:** Arabic numbers, left align all, double-spaced, 10pt Times New Roman Font.

Submissions must be free of comments, revisions, annotations, headers, footers, watermarks, invisible content, and hidden text. Track Changes must be turned off and comments removed.

Style and References

- *Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Ed.*
- *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Ed.*

Late Policy

Any assignments submitted after the deadlines given in this syllabus are subject to failure.



U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
— Est. 1884 —
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

HHC SEMINAR AND SPEAKER SERIES

Book talks and seminar discussions on new research in maritime and naval history
2022–2023

All sessions take place in C-138 from 1200 to 1315 unless otherwise noted.

August 9	Book Talk	<i>Victory at Sea: Naval Power and the Transformation of the Global Order in World War II</i> Paul Kennedy *Spruance Auditorium, 1200–1315*
September 12	Book Talk	<i>Nimitz at War: Command Leadership from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay</i> Craig Symonds
October 12	Seminar	“The GIs of Gay Liberation: Vernon Berg and Leonard Matlovich vs. the U.S. Military” Heather Haley
November 7	Book Talk	<i>How to Grow a Navy: The Development of Maritime Power</i> Geoff Till
December 12	Seminar	A chapter from <i>American Defense Reform: Lessons from Failure and Success in Navy History</i> RADM Dave Oliver, USN (ret.) and Anand Toprani
January 18	Seminar	Works-in-Progress GCMH Students
January 23	Seminar	Works-in-Progress GCMH Students
March 6	Seminar	“‘Forced into the Shade’: Winston Churchill, America’s Naval Challenge, and Arms Control between the World Wars” John Maurer
April 17	Seminar	“Pacific Sentinel: The Life and Career of Admiral Harry Ervin Yarnell” Ryan Wadle
May 15	Book Talk	<i>The Horrible Peace: British Veterans and the End of the Napoleonic Wars</i> Evan Wilson

Seminar papers will be pre-circulated. To be added to the email list, contact Evan Wilson (evan.wilson@usnwc.edu).

GCMH WORKSHOPS

These workshops are intended to guide you through the process of scoping, researching, and writing your essay. They will usually take place on Thursdays at 1400 in Pringle 246.

Workshop 1: Project Design

August 18

Evan Wilson

What are some techniques for approaching historical scholarship? This session will provide some concrete examples of ways you can design a GCMH-length project.

Workshop 2: Supervising Your Supervisor; PhD Q&A

September 22

GCMH Directors

How do you make the most of your relationship with your supervisor? Since that question also gets to the heart of the experience of a PhD program, we will also discuss the pros and cons of doctoral work.

Workshop 3: How to Archive I

October 20

Stacie Parillo, Elizabeth Delmage

Hear from the archivists at the Naval War College about the collections available in Newport and in the region. They will also offer their perspective on how historians can get the most out of archives.

Workshop 4: How to Archive II

November 16

Ryan Wadle, J Dancy

How do you prepare for an archival visit? Once you've gone to the archive, how do you turn that research into writing?

Workshop 5: WIPSEM Prep

December 16

GCMH Directors

We will discuss expectations for the January WIPSEMs, and we will give you your assigned WIPSEM date. This session may also double as our holiday party.

Workshop 6: How to Publish Your GCMH Project

January 30

Aaron Bright, Josh Weiss

Two GCMH graduates will discuss how they got their projects published.

Workshop 7: Publishing in Professional Journals, or a Ship Trip

March 15

TBD

Workshop 8: Ship Trip

April 19

GCMH Directors

Workshop 9: Preparing for Your Oral Defense

May 10

GCMH Directors

We'll discuss what to expect when you're expecting to defend your GCMH Essay.

GCMH ORAL DEFENSES



"Hi, yeah, I actually have more of a comment than an inquisition."

Not later than the beginning of your third term, you should discuss the makeup of your committee with your supervisor. It will consist of your supervisor and two subject-matter experts. During your third term, you will arrange a date for your oral defense in front of that committee. The window in which it can be arranged is Thursday of Week 9 through Thursday of Week 10 of the electives calendar ([May 18–May 25, 2023](#)).

Your submission is your preparation for the defense. Bring a copy of your essay to the defense, but other than re-reading your essay, you do not need to prepare. We use the term “defense” deliberately. During these sessions, it is your job to defend your work. You will receive criticism from your panel; don’t be afraid to push back and explain why you did what you did, or why you came to conclusion X instead of Y.

At the same time, you need to approach these sessions with a healthy dose of humility. In some cases, your panelists have dedicated their professional lives to studying your topic. In all cases, they are experienced, thoughtful people with academic training who have taken time to contemplate your work. They know what they're doing. Listen to them. They want to make your work better. If they tell you something about your essay didn't work, or that you should have considered another angle, *don't respond defensively*.

See the challenge? Defend your work—you know it at a level of granularity that nobody else does because you've spent a year on it—but take criticism constructively.

There are three possible outcomes of the oral defense: pass, pass with minor corrections, or fail. Students who receive a pass will not need to resubmit their essays; students who receive a pass

with minor corrections will have 72 hours to complete them; students who fail will not be given an opportunity to resubmit.

Students who wish to run their essays through Turn-It-In and submit a report to be filed with their final essay will have 72 hours from the time of the defense to produce that report.

The dress code for the defense is western business attire.

SAMPLE PROSPECTUS

Submitted to the Hattendorf Historical Center for the Graduate Certificate in Maritime History

Candidate
Joshua Weiss

Proposed Project
Mission Command in the Age of Sail

How can mission command be used to assess naval operations in the age of sail? The answer to this question has value to both naval officers and naval historians. Mission command describes military operations accomplished by aggressive and independent execution of intent-based orders. It requires both the leader issuing the orders and the leader executing them to translate and interpret intent. It is a modern concept employed to leverage the advantages inherent in decentralized command in a rapidly evolving battlespace. The desired end state of correctly executed mission command is an officer who, in an environment of imperfect or incomplete information, is able to interpret and execute orders efficiently and correctly. Before the communications revolution of the nineteenth century, virtually all naval operations took place in an environment of imperfect or incomplete information. As such, today's naval officers should study the age of sail through the lens of mission command to gain valuable insights into the practical application of the theory. Similarly, for naval historians, mission command is a useful category of historical analysis for assessing operations in the age of sail.

This research will demonstrate the value of this approach by examining in detail an interaction between two British officers in the Leeward Islands in 1815. Between 30 June and 27 July 1815 Rear Admiral Sir Philip Durham and Lieutenant General Sir James Leith engaged in a remarkable dispute regarding the island of Guadeloupe, whose governor had declared allegiance

to the recently returned Napoleon Bonaparte. The dispute was carried out via a series of lengthy and legalistic letters between the two officers and centered on whether the British forces should, or were even permitted to, intervene militarily to re-take Guadeloupe in the name of the newly restored Bourbon king, Louis XVIII. The correspondence between the commanders makes clear each was attempting to interpret orders which did not clearly fit the current situation.

Initial research also shows that this incident is almost completely unexplored in the existing historiography. The first accounts to be published, such as William James' narrative or Durham's memoirs, do not make much of the dispute between the two men, nor do more recent studies. Standard accounts of the naval history of the West Indies in this period, such as those by N. A. M. Rodger and James Davey, focus almost entirely on American commerce raiding during the end of the War of 1812. The effect of Napoleon's return to France on the French colonies of Guadeloupe and Martinique receives much less attention. The only historian who has explored the episode in detail is Hilary Rubinstein. She edited the recently published Navy Records Society volume, *The Durham Papers*, and her earlier monograph, *Trafalgar Captain: Durham of the Defiance*, provides detail of the timeline of events on Martinique and Guadeloupe, as well as the only contemporary account of the conflict between Durham and Leith. Her analysis of the conflict, however, does not go into any significant depth. As such, in addition to using this incident to demonstrate the value of mission command as a category of historical analysis, this project will provide a fresh account of the events in the West Indies and Europe that led up to the conflict and a thorough analysis of the actions both men took.

This research project will use primary materials, such as the correspondence between the two commanders and the orders provided to each, as well as secondary sources, to frame the conflict against a detailed background of the end of War of 1812 and Napoleon's escape from

Elba. It will investigate why the orders from Lords Bathurst and Melville differed in tone and apparent intent so greatly. This project will also analyze whether Durham's state of mind and desire to conclude his naval career may have substantially affected his interpretation of the Admiralty's orders.

Finally, in addition to the detailed analysis of the conflict between Durham and Leith, this project will use multiple other examples of mission command in the age of sail from secondary sources to construct a framework for both naval officers and naval historians to use mission command as category of historical analysis. The initial research into the Durham and Leith incident suggests that the Admiralty failed to communicate its intent to the naval commander-in-chief and that Durham failed to act with the needed discipline and aggression. Lord Bathurst, on the other hand, successfully communicated his intent, and as a result Leith pressed for action. In the end, Durham's hesitation did not matter as the subsequent joint operation to capture Guadeloupe succeeded. But by analyzing how the decision-making process broke down, this project will demonstrate common problems in naval operations in the age of sail.

Provisional Bibliography

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