

# HUMANITIES SEA PROJECT 2013-2014

Prof. Christopher Trogan  
Samuels 215  
[troganc@usmma.edu](mailto:troganc@usmma.edu)  
516-726-5694  
Office Hours: TBD

## Required Textbooks

Students are individually responsible for purchasing a text of their choice from the approved reading list.

## Course Description

The Humanities Sea Project is a reading and writing project to be completed by all midshipmen during their second sailing period. It provides a quality reading experience while at sea, encouraging midshipmen to consider books with literary and/or historical merit. This project will allow them time to contemplate the ethical and moral issues of fictional or historical leadership and authority as well as to provide an opportunity for self-reflection. By the end of the sea year, midshipmen should be able to appreciate how encountering new literary works can enrich their experiences throughout their professional maritime careers. 1 credit.

## Course Objectives

- To enhance the midshipmen's knowledge of literature, biography, and/or history
- To add to the midshipmen's base of knowledge about the larger world and to stimulate critical thinking about human relationships as well as the ethical and moral issues of fictional or historical leadership and authority
- To provide opportunities for midshipmen to improve their analytical writing skills
- To encourage life-long learning through reading and self-reflection

## Midshipman Learning Goals

- Midshipmen will learn to write analytical essays that demonstrate their understanding of the literary works' character, theme, narrative point of view, and/ or rhetorical and linguistic techniques.
- Midshipmen will learn to write analytical essays that have a well-formed thesis statement, topic sentences, and significant supporting details.
- Midshipmen will learn to write analytical essays that are well organized and demonstrate a strong, clear command of standard written English.

## Directions and Requirements

Choose a book to read from the Approved Reading List (see next page) and write a 2,000-3,500-word paper (5-8 pages) exclusive of quotations—double-spaced, using a 12-point font with one-inch margins—on the **topic of effective leadership** as it relates to the chosen book:

### **THIS PROJECT IS NOT A BOOK REPORT OR A PLOT SUMMARY.**

You should begin with an introductory paragraph that introduces the book and the major themes contained in your paper. This paragraph should contain a **thesis statement** in which you use **key words and/or phrases to identify specific characteristics** that define the nature of effective and/or ineffective leadership in your chosen book.

**The central section of your paper should consist of your analysis of the leadership in the book.** Do the leaders and the followers whom you discuss have positive qualities (such as decisiveness, professionalism, willingness to collaborate, charisma, generosity, concern for others), or negative traits (for example laziness, manipulative behaviors, hunger for power, micromanagement, vengefulness)? Give good examples of the leader's characteristics, and show the effects of this type of leadership on their partners, followers, or subordinates. What are the effects of this type of leadership on the events in the book?

In your analysis, try to address the psychological dimension behind human interaction. Why do the leaders or followers behave as they do? Avoid clichés, or if you use them, be sure to reexamine them through the lens of the book. Remember, you must convince the reader of your point of view through the presentation of evidence. Your analysis must also include several well-selected but brief quotations to illustrate your points, and you must follow up your quotations by relating them to your argument. **Use MLA style for textual citations.**

## Evaluation

You must submit the final paper (paper copy) to the Humanities Sea Project Director *within one week* of returning from sea year. You also must submit an electronic copy of the paper to Turnitin.com. The Turnitin.com Class ID is 6076603. The Turnitin.Com Class Password is "KPSEA" Failure to comply with either measure is grounds for failure of the Humanities Sea Project.

Once submitted, the Humanities Sea Project Director shall base the grade for the paper on the following criteria: thesis statement (25%), development (25%), organization (25%), and sentence mechanics (25%). Please see the attached grading rubric for more specific information regarding the evaluation of your project.

You may retrieve the graded paper from the Humanities Department office when indicated by the Sea Project Director. Any Midshipman receiving a failing grade (C- or below) must rewrite the project using another text chosen from the Approved Reading List below. Remediation grades will be no higher than C+.

**There will be NO REVISIONS allowed and NO RESUBMISSIONS for a higher grade.**

### Approved Reading List

Before you choose one of the books listed below, do some research online (try Google, Wikipedia, ProQuest, or EbscoHost, for example), to find which titles parallel or complement your own personal tastes or interests.

Nathaniel Philbrick, *In the Heart of the Sea*  
Thor Heyerdahl, *Kon-Tiki*  
Lothar-Günther Buchheim, *Das Boot (The Boat)*  
Pat Barker, *Regeneration*  
Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*  
M. Coetzee, *The Life and Times of Michael K.*  
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*  
Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*  
Joseph O'Conner, *Star of the Sea*  
William Shakespeare, *Henry V*  
Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels*  
Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men*  
Arnold Rampersad, *Jackie Robinson: A Biography*  
Stephen Oates, *Let the Trumpet Sound*  
Richard Dana, *Two Years Before the Mast*

### Statement on Plagiarism and Ponies

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the Academy's educational mission and students' personal and intellectual growth. Kings Point students are expected to bear individual responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity, and to uphold its ideals. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be severely sanctioned academically and reported to the Honor Board. Course failure and/or dismissal from the Academy may follow. All aspects of the Midshipman's performance on the Humanities Sea Project must be consistent with the Honor Code in place at the Academy. Plagiarism is a violation of the Academy's Honor Code and is a serious academic crime that can result in expulsion from the Academy. The use of ponies is regarded as cheating. All students are required to hand write and sign the following honor pledge on a blank sheet of paper attached to the Humanities Sea Project: "I pledge that this Humanities Sea Project represents all of my own work in accordance with regulations." Please keep in mind the motto "A Midshipman Will Not Lie, Cheat, or Steal."

## Humanities Sea Project Evaluation Rubric

Breakdown of points to letter grade equivalent:

**Total numerical points** \_\_\_\_\_ x 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ % = \_\_\_\_\_

THESIS	DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT	ORGANIZATION	LANGUAGE
5 pts. Essay controlled by clear, specific, well-defined thesis; sophisticated in both insight and statement.	5 pts. Well-chosen examples and persuasive reasoning used to develop and support thesis consistently; uses quotations and citations effectively; causal connections between ideas evident; shows complete grasp of text.	5 pts. Appropriate, clear, smooth transitions, arrangement of paragraphs seems particularly apt.	5 pts. Uses sophisticated sentences effectively; chooses words aptly; observes conventions of written English and manuscript format; very few or no mechanical/technical errors.
4pts. Clear, specific thesis central to essay; may have minor terms undefined or be less complex, clear/concise, and/or sophisticated than a 5 point thesis.	4pts. Pursues thesis consistently clearly develops a main argument with well-marked major points and appropriate textual evidence and supporting detail; makes effort to link rather than stack ideas; shows good textual understanding.	4pts. Distinct units of thought in paragraph units; relatively clear transitions between developed, coherently arranged paragraphs.	4pts. Some mechanical difficulties or stylistic problems; may make occasional problematic word choice or awkward syntax error; a few spelling or punctuation errors or clichés; usually presents quotations effectively.
3pts. Has a general central thesis or controlling idea; may not define several central terms or express thesis very clearly and concisely.	3pts. Only partially develops the argument; shallow analysis; some ideas or generalizations undeveloped or unsupported; limited use of textual evidence; shows some understanding of text.	3pts. Some weak or awkward transitions; some brief, poorly unified, or undeveloped paragraphs; logic behind paragraph arrangement unclear.	3pts. More frequent wordiness; recurrent awkward or unclear sentences; imprecise use of words or over-reliance on passive voice; one or two recurrent major grammatical errors (subject-verb agreement, comma splice, sentence fragments, etc.); effort to present quotations accurately.
2pt. Thesis vague or not central to argument; central terms not defined.	2pt. Frequently only narrates; digresses from one topic to another without developing ideas or terms; makes insufficient or awkward use of textual evidence; misunderstands text.	2pt. Simplistic, rambling; tends to narrate or merely summarize unlinked ideas instead of constructing an argument; wanders from one topic to another; ideas arranged illogically.	2pt. Major grammatical or proofreading errors that interfere with reading; language marred by clichés, inappropriate colloquialisms, repeated inexact word choices; inappropriate quotation or citation format.