

## WILLIAMS–MYSTIC MARITIME STUDIES PROGRAM

Executive Director, THOMAS S. VAN WINKLE Faculty Chair, GLENN S. GORDINIER

Faculty: LISA A. GILBERT (Williams College), GLENN S. GORDINIER (Mystic Seaport Museum; University of Connecticut), CATHERINE ROBINSON HALL (Mystic Seaport Museum); MARY K. BERCAW-EDWARDS (University of Connecticut; Mystic Seaport Museum), RICHARD J. KING (Mystic Seaport Museum).

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 undertake original research of their own design in the humanities and sciences. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors of all majors welcome. A term at Williams–Mystic includes credit for one semester plus one winter study requirement, as well as intensive writing course credit. Four Williams courses are offered as an integrated, multidisciplinary curriculum in the semester–long program at Mystic Seaport, in Mystic, Connecticut: Maritime History, Literature of the Sea, Marine Policy, and either Marine Ecology or Oceanographic Processes (see the Maritime Studies section in this catalog). 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. The Fall 2013 semester will include a field seminar to the Hawaiian Islands. 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 tidepools and salt marshes to sandy beaches and estuaries). Students also participate in maritime skills under professional instruction, with choices such as celestial navigation, 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. Interested students should email [admissions@williamsmystic.org](mailto:admissions@williamsmystic.org), call (860–572–5359), visit the website (<http://mystic.williams.edu/>), or obtain a Williams–Mystic catalog from the Dean’s office. Applications are on the web and at the Dean’s office.

### MAST 211(F,S) Oceanographic Processes

**Crosslistings:** MAST 211/GEOS 210

*Primary Crosslisting*

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:** lecture/laboratory, 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

**Extra Info:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 3

**Other Attributes:**

ENVI Natural World Electives  
ENVS Group EB–B Electives  
ENVS Group EG–C Electives  
EVST Living Systems Courses  
EXPE Experiential Education Courses

*Fall 2016*

LEC Section: 01 TBA Lisa Gilbert

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 TBA Lisa Gilbert

### MAST 231(F,S) Literature of the Sea (W)

**Crosslistings:** MAST 231/ENGL 231

*Primary Crosslisting*

Taking advantage of our maritime museum, coastal setting, and three field seminars, we study canonical and lesser–known American novelists, travel writers, 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—Hemingway when sailing on the Straits of Florida, Steinbeck when exploring Cannery Row on Monterey Bay, and Twain on a steamboat on the Mississippi. We read Rachel Carson beside the Mystic River estuary, Chopin on the sands of the Gulf of Mexico, Kipling out on Georges Bank, and 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 formal and creative writing. To further appreciation and analysis, this interdisciplinary course uses students’ emerging knowledge of maritime history and marine science. Other authors and poets include, depending on fall or spring: Richard Henry Dana, Jr., Walt Whitman, Jack London, Joseph Conrad, T.S. Eliot, Langston Hughes, Elizabeth Bishop, Frederick Douglass, Timothy Egan, and Ursula K. Le Guin.

**Class Format:** small group tutorials with weekly lectures, including coastal and near–shore field trips, and 10 days at sea

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

**Extra Info:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

AMST Arts in Context Electives  
ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  
ENVP SC–B Group Electives

Fall 2016

LEC Section: 01 TBA Mary Bercaw Edwards

Spring 2017

LEC Section: 01 TBA Mary Bercaw Edwards

**MAST 311(F,S) Marine Ecology**

**Crosslistings:** MAST 311/BIOL 231

*Primary Crosslisting*

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:** lecture/laboratory, 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

**Extra Info:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

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

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 3

**Other Attributes:**

ENVI Natural World Electives

ENVS Group EB-A Electives

EVST Living Systems Courses

EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Fall 2016

LEC Section: 01 TBA Michael Nishizaki

Spring 2017

LEC Section: 01 TBA Michael Nishizaki

**MAST 351(F,S) Marine Policy**

**Crosslistings:** MAST 351/ENVI 351/PSCI 319

*Primary Crosslisting*

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:** lecture, 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

**Extra Info:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

**Dept. Notes:** satisfies the Environmental Policy requirement for the Environmental Policy major and the Environmental studies concentration

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

**Other Attributes:**

ENVI Environmental Policy

ENVP PTL Theory/Method Courses

ENVP PE-A Group Electives

ENVP PTL-A Group Electives

ENVP SC-A Group Electives

EXPE Experiential Education Courses

POEC International Political Economy Courses

Fall 2016

LEC Section: 01 TBA Catherine Hall

Spring 2017

LEC Section: 01 TBA Catherine Hall

**MAST 352(F,S) Americans and the Maritime Environment (W)**

**Crosslistings:** MAST 352/HIST 352

*Primary Crosslisting*

This course examines the impact of the maritime environment (both salt water and fresh) on human affairs from the age of European expansion to the opening decades of the 21st century. Taught using the collections of Mystic Seaport Museum and on several distant field seminars, Americans and the Maritime Environment examines en situ such things as race, gender, revolution, and humankind's changing relationship with the world's oceans. Readings in primary sources and secondary works on the social, economic, and technological implications of maritime activities culminate in an original research paper.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion, including coastal and near-shore field trips, 10 days offshore, and an independent, primary source research project

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two papers, and short presentation, and final exam. Student papers will be a 5-page minimum and a 15-page minimum essay; the 15-page paper will be critiqued in three steps, as a proposal, a draft, and a final paper, with attention to reasoning and style

**Extra Info:** offered only at Mystic Seaport

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

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

AMST Space and Place Electives

ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

ENVP SC-B Group Electives

EXPE Experiential Education Courses

HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

*Fall 2016*

LEC Section: 01 TBA Glenn Gordinier

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 TBA Glenn Gordinier