

HIS 301

SCIENCE AT SEA

Tu/Th: 11:30am-12:50pm

Satisfies: ESI

Professor Tamara Fernando

In HIS 301 we will focus on core skills in the craft of history: critical reading to interrogate both primary and secondary sources, outlining and following through on a research plan, and how to deliver clear, argumentative, polished, research papers from start to finish! We will practice and learn these skills within the field of the history of science, focused especially on the growing field of the history of science at sea, covering oceanography, marine biology, bathymetry, and other fields. We will discuss and explore the role of states, the military/navy, local indigenous knowledge, and, crucially, the material of the ocean itself in shaping what we know about the sea through the prism of “science.” We will close-read primary sources not limited to Polynesian stick navigation charts, Royal Society reports on the ocean, and scientific diagrams and illustrations.