

**New Class**  
**Arts and Cultures of the Indian Ocean World**  
**ANT 191 (Spring 2016)**



**Instructor:** Neelima Jeychandran  
**Schedule:** Mon & Wed—10.00-11.50 am  
**Room:** Hickey Gym Room 290  
**CRN:** 63377  
**Units:** 4  
**Course Description:**

This course will look at the dynamic cultures, traditions, and geopolitics of the Indian Ocean World—a vast area that stretches from the Swahili Coast in East Africa to the Malay Archipelago in Southeast Asia. The maritime trade network in the Indian Ocean facilitated not only the movement of people, but also played a crucial role in cultural exchanges between Asia, Africa, and the Arab world. Today many cities and towns in the Indian Ocean littoral such as Dubai, Singapore, and Mumbai are global cities, and their cultural practices divulge clues about how people migrated, adapted, and assimilated. We shall examine how cross-cultural exchanges are preserved and remembered, updated and reinvented in the present through material cultures, landscapes, arts, and contemporary rituals. We will also discuss current territorial disputes, issues of identity and place-making practices in the Indian Ocean World.