

## Recitation D

### **Titanic**

The Titanic was the largest passenger steamship in the world when it set sail from Southampton, England to New York City in 1912. No other ship has captured the world's attention, quite like the Titanic did. Constructed to be unsinkable, the first class ocean liner set sail on April 10 that year. The world had awaited the maiden voyage of this luxury liner for years.

Then, on Sunday, April 14, four days after it began its voyage, the Titanic was in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean when tragedy struck. At 1:45 p.m., messages were sent from another ship telling the crew of the Titanic that large icebergs lay in its path. However, since the Titanic's radio operators were concerned with relaying messages to and from the passengers, they did not report the message about the icebergs to the bridge.

That night, which was freezing cold, the ocean was calm and the moon was not visible, even though the sky was clear. At 11:40 p.m., two members of the crew on the bridge spotted a large iceberg and telephoned the senior officer, exclaiming, "Iceberg, right ahead!" When the ship struck the iceberg, many people on board were drinking and socializing. So they did not notice the sudden jarring movement of the ship. The crew, on the other hand, soon realized that the Titanic would sink.

Sadly, there were not enough lifeboats. The company had reduced the number of lifeboats before departure because it wanted to make the Titanic look good. However, this was a big mistake. It resulted in the deaths of 1,513 people that night. Of the 2,228 passengers and crew members who set sail, only about 700 of the Titanic passengers survived.

(284 words)