

HIS 341
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story
Fall 2013

Class time: Tu/Th 11:00-12:15

Classroom: BRYN 112

Office hours: Thursdays 2-4 pm, and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the exploits of Englishman John Hawkins and Francis Drake, to Dutchman Piet Heyn's daring capture of the Spanish silver fleet, to Henry Morgan's brief stint as Governor of Jamaica, piracy was intricately woven into the history of the early modern Caribbean. Few historical actors have been so thoroughly romanticized—or so completely decontextualized—as Caribbean pirates. This course introduces students to the fascinating, complex, and changing role of corsairs, buccaneers, pirates, and privateers in shaping the emerging colonial economies, societies, and cultures of the Caribbean, from the first arrival of Europeans through the consolidation of empires, plantations, and transatlantic trade systems in the eighteenth century.

READINGS

David Cordingly, *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates*. Random House, 2006.

Alexander O. Exquemelin, *The Buccaneers of America*. Dover, 2000 (1678).

Kris Lane, *Pillaging the Empire. Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750*. M. E. Sharpe, 1998.

These books can be purchased at the UNCG bookstore or from online sellers. They are also on closed reserves at the circulation desk of the library. Make sure you have the correct edition of Exquemelin. (But note that the library edition of Exquemelin is a much longer version.) There will also be articles, primary documents, and lots of maps, which I will hand out in class. Always bring copies of the week's readings and the handouts to class.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- describe the basic narrative of the changing role of piracy in the early modern Caribbean
- critically appraise major processes that shaped the development of Caribbean piracy as a historical phenomenon
- critically interpret relevant primary sources
- explain historians' different interpretations of Caribbean piracy

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The final grade will be determined by the following, each of which is worth 20%:

Unit 1 test

Unit 2 test

Short paper on Exquemelin

Take home final exam/paper

Short in-class exercises, pop quizzes, and group work (together worth 20%)

Grading Scale:

A+: 97-100, A: 93-96, A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89; B: 83-86, B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62

F: 0-59

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance, attention in class, and taking notes are expected. Students who must miss class due to illness or emergency should notify the professor, and consult with fellow students to get notes, etc. Students who miss more than three classes may have difficulty meeting course requirements. I have found that there is a direct correlation between student engagement (attendance, attention, and note-taking) and the course grade. Students who repeatedly miss class, arrive late, do not take notes, or are distracted (especially by the lure of the Internet) rarely do well.

Class Etiquette: A classroom is a communal space where we all gather for a brief period to pursue a common goal via group interactions. No food or cell phone use, please. You are welcome to bring a drink. Repeatedly arriving late, leaving early, leaving the room during class, surfing the Internet, and sleeping (or appearing to sleep) are disrespectful and disruptive and will be counted as absences.

Communication: Check your UNCG e-mail account and the Announcements section of the course Blackboard site regularly. The best way to contact the professor is via e-mail (lmrupert@uncg.edu). You should expect to hear back within 24 hours, unless: 1) it is the weekend; 2) you receive an automatic “out of office” reply. It is your responsibility to make sure that communication is successful and that all material gets in on time.

Academic Integrity: Enrollment in this course and submission of each written assignment constitute students’ acceptance of UNCG’s Academic Integrity Policy. Make sure you read and understand the policy, which is available at: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense which can result in failing the class or expulsion from the university. Know the rules. If in doubt, ask.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Dean of Students (<http://deanofstudents.uncg.edu/>; tel: 45514): Supports and advocates for students who have family emergencies, extended illness, trauma, etc.

Office of Disability Services (<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>; tel: 45440): Students who have documented disabilities that require accommodation should register with this office during the first week of class. No accommodations can be made without this paperwork.

Office of Information Technology (<http://www.its.uncg.edu>; tel: 6-TECH): Provides assistance with computer malfunctions, issues with Blackboard, etc. Please note that computer or printer problems are not valid excuses for missing deadlines. Plan ahead!

University Writing Center (www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/; tel: 43125): Provides help with paper structure, argument, grammar, style, etc.

University Speaking Center (<http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu>): Provides help for all oral presentations, to both individuals and groups.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Unit 1: Early Caribbean Piracy

Week 1 (August 20 & 22): Caribbean Piracy in Context

Readings: Cordingly, Introduction & Chapter 1; primary documents (handed out in class)

Week 2 (August 27 & 29): Conquest, Empire, and the Rise of Caribbean Piracy

Readings: Anthony, "Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of the West;" Lane, Introduction & Chapter 1; primary documents (handed out in class)

Week 3 (September 3 & 5): The Elizabethan Privateers

Readings: Lane, Chapter 2; Cordingly Chapter 2; primary documents (handed out in class)

Week 4 (September 10 & 12): The Dutch Sea-Rovers

Readings: Lane, Chapter 3; primary documents (handed out in class)

Week 5 (September 17 & 19): Summation and Unit 1 Test

Unit 2: The Rise and Fall of Bandit Communities

Week 6 (September 24 & 26): The Buccaneers

Readings: Cordingly, Chapter 3; Beeching, Introduction to Exquemelin; Exquemelin, Part I

Week 7 (October 1 & 3): Outlaws and Officials

Readings: Lane, Chapter 4; Exquemelin, Part II

Week 8 (October 8 & 10): Beyond the Caribbean

Readings: Lane, Chapter 5; Exquemelin, Part III

Week 9 (October 17): Hunting Down the Pirates

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 11 & 12; Lane, Chapter 6 & Conclusions; primary documents

Week 10 (October 22 & 24): Summation and Unit 2 test

Unit 3: Major Themes in Caribbean Piracy

Week 11 (October 29 & 31): Race and Gender at Sea

Readings: Cordingly, Chapter 4; primary documents (handed out in class)

***** Paper on Exquemelin due on Tuesday, October 29 *****

Week 12 (November 5 & 7): Sailing under the Black Flag

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 5 & 6; primary documents (handed out in class)

Week 13 (November 12 & 14): Pirates at Work

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 7 & 8; primary documents (handed out in class)

Week 14 (November 19 & 21): Myths and Realities

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 9 & 10, Afterward; primary documents (handed out in class)

Week 15 (November 26): Summation

***** Take-home final exam/paper due on Thursday, December 5 *****