

HIS 341
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story
Fall 2014

Tu/Th 11:00-12:15 Moore HRA 2211

Dr. Linda Rupert (lmrupert@uncg.edu)

Office hours: Tu 1-3, W 1-2, Th: 9-10 and by appointment (Moore HRA 2105)

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 Lt. 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 early 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. There will also be articles, primary documents, and many maps, which I will hand out in class. Always bring copies of the week's readings and the unit handouts to class.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to apply the following History Department Learning Goals to their understanding of Caribbean piracy:

- Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]
- Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]
- Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Research]
- Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

There will be three unit tests and two papers. Each is worth 15% of the final grade. Pop quizzes count for another 15% and group work counts 10%.

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: Students who must miss class due to illness or emergency should arrange to get notes from classmates. Students who repeatedly miss class, arrive late, do not take notes, or are distracted in class rarely do well.

Tests, Quizzes and Papers: Makeup unit tests will be given at the discretion of the professor. Pop quizzes cannot be made up; the lowest 3 scores will be dropped (including zeros). Papers are due at the beginning of class, in hard copy, and will be docked a full letter grade for each day they are late. You will receive more detailed instructions about each paper.

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.

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 and/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 and READINGS

Unit 1: Interlopers in a Spanish Sea

Week 1 (August 19 & 21): The Rise of Caribbean Piracy

Readings: Anthony, "Pirates, Privateers, & Buccaneers of the West;" Cordingly, Intro & Chapter 1

Week 2 (August 26 & 28): Early Caribbean Piracy

Readings: Lane, Introduction & Chapter 1

Week 3 (September 2 & 4): The Elizabethan Privateers

Readings: Lane, Chapter 2; Cordingly, Chapter 2

Week 4 (September 9 & 11): The Dutch Sea-Rovers

Readings: Lane, Chapter 3

Week 5 (September 16 & 18): Summation and Unit 1 Test

Unit 2: Caribbean Transformations and Buccaneers

Week 6 (September 23 & 25): Buccaneer Communities

Readings: Lane, Chapter 4; Cordingly, Chapter 8

Week 7 (September 30 & October 2): Outlaws and Officials

Readings: Cordingly, Chapter 3; Exquemelin selections

Week 8 (October 7-9): Beyond the Caribbean

Readings: Lane, Chapter 5

Week 9 (October 16): Hunting Down the Pirates

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

Week 10 (October 21 & 23): Summation and Unit 2 Test

Unit 3: Major Themes in Caribbean Piracy

Week 11 (October 28 & 30): Sailing under the Black Flag

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 5-7

***** Paper on Exquemelin due on Thursday, October 30 *****

Week 12 (November 4 & 6): Race and Social Class at Sea

Readings: Handouts

Week 13 (November 11 & 13): Gender and Sexuality in the Maritime World

Readings: Cordingly Chapter 4; handouts

Week 14 (November 18 & 20): Myths and Realities

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 9 & 10 & Afterward

Week 15 (November 25): Unit 3 test

***** Take-home final exam/paper due on Thursday, December 4 *****