

# HIS 341 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story

## Fall 2015

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15; Petty 219

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**Office hours:** Tuesdays 1-3 pm, Thursdays 9-10:30 am, and by appointment (Moore HRA 2105)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the exploits of Englishmen 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 maps, which I will hand out in class, and which will be posted on the course Canvas site. 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. Quizzes count for another 15% and group work counts 10%.

#### *Grading Scale:*

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

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

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

D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62 F: 0-59

### IMPORTANT DATES

*Unit 1 test:* September 15

*Midterm paper due:* October 8

*Unit 2 test:* October 22

*Unit 3 test:* November 24

*Final paper due:* December 4

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** Lectures, discussion, and group work are designed to complement, not repeat, course readings. Students who regularly miss class, do not come prepared, or are not fully engaged rarely do well in this course. Students who must miss class due to illness or emergency should arrange to get class notes and other pertinent information from classmates. It is not necessary to provide a note.

**Class Etiquette:** A classroom is a communal space where we all gather for a brief period to pursue a common goal via group interactions. Please do not bring food unless you have enough to share with the entire class. You are welcome to bring a drink. Cell phones should be on “silent” mode and put away; inform the professor if you must take an emergency call and sit near the door so you can exit without disturbing the class. Arriving late, leaving early, leaving the room during class, surfing the Internet, texting, and sleeping (or appearing to sleep) interfere with learning.

**Tests, Quizzes and Papers:** Makeup unit tests will be given at the discretion of the professor and require documentation of a legitimate absence. Quizzes cannot be made up; the lowest 3 scores (including zeros) will be dropped. 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 in the course of the semester.

**Communication:** Check your UNCG e-mail account and the Announcements section of the course Canvas site regularly. (Be sure to set your Notification Preferences in Canvas Settings to ASAP.) The best way to contact the professor is via e-mail ([lmrupert@uncg.edu](mailto: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 is received 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** ([deanofstudents.uncg.edu/](http://deanofstudents.uncg.edu/); tel: 45514): Supports and advocates for students who have family emergencies, extended illness, trauma, etc.

**Office of Disability Services** ([ods.dept.uncg.edu/](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** ([its.uncg.edu/](http://its.uncg.edu/); tel: 6-TECH): Provides assistance with computer malfunctions, issues with Canvas, 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/](http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/); tel: 43125): Provides help with paper structure, argument, grammar, style, etc.

**University Speaking Center** ([http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu](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 18 & 20): The Rise of Caribbean Piracy***

*Readings:* Anthony, "Pirates, Privateers, & Buccaneers of the West;" Cordingly, Intro.; Lane, Intro.

#### ***Week 2 (August 25 & 27): Early Caribbean Piracy***

*Readings:* Rogozinski, "Discovery of the Islands" & "Pirates Fight for Spanish Gold," 34-39; Lane, Ch. 1

#### ***Week 3 (September 1 & 3): The Elizabethan Privateers***

*Readings:* Rogozinski, "Pirates Fight for Spanish Gold," 40-43; Lane, Ch. 2; Cordingly, Ch. 2

#### ***Week 4 (September 8 & 10): The Dutch Sea-Rovers***

*Readings:* Rogozinski, "The Dutch Empire;" Lane, Ch. 3

#### ***Week 5 (September 15): Unit 1 Test***

### **Unit 2:**

#### ***Week 5 (September 17): Caribbean Transformations***

*Readings:* Heuman, "Sugar and Slavery;" Rogozinski, "Settlement of the Lesser Antilles"

#### ***Week 6 (September 22 & 24): The Rise of Buccaneer Communities***

Lane, Ch. 4; Exquemelin, pp. 67-85

#### ***Week 7 (September 29 & October 1): Outlaws and Officials***

*Readings:* Cordingly, Ch. 3; Exquemelin Part Two (pp. 89-233)

#### ***Week 8 (October 6 & 8): Beyond the Caribbean***

*Readings:* Lane, Chapter 5; Cordingly, Ch. 8

**\*\*\* Midterm Paper due on Thursday, October 8**

#### ***Weeks 9 & 10: Hunting Down the Pirates***

**\*\*\* No class on Tuesday, October 13 (fall break) \*\*\***

*Readings for Thursday, October 15:* Rogozinski, "War and Piracy;" Lane, Ch. 6

*Readings for Tuesday, October 20:* Cordingly, Ch. 11 & 12; Lane, Conclusions

***Thursday, October 22: Unit 2 Test***

### **Unit 3: Major Themes in Caribbean Piracy**

#### ***Week 11 (October 27 & 29): Sailing under the Black Flag***

*Readings:* Cordingly, Ch. 5-7

#### ***Week 12 (November 3 & 5): Race and Social Class at Sea***

*Readings:* Kinkor, "Black Men under the Black Flag;" Rediker, "Hydrarchy and Libertalia"

#### ***Week 13 (November 10 & 12): Gender and Sexuality in the Maritime World***

*Readings:* Cordingly Ch. 4; Stanley, "The Women among the Boys;" Burg, "The Buccaneer Community"

#### ***Week 14 (November 17 & 19): Myths and Realities***

*Readings:* Cordingly, Chapters 1, 9 & 10 & Afterward

#### ***Week 15 (November 24): Unit 3 Test***

**\*\*\* Final paper due on Friday, December 4 \*\*\***