

HIS 382.01
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story
Spring 2009

Tu/Th 12:30-1:45
Classroom: Moore HRA 2211

Dr. Linda Rupert
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Office hours: Thursdays 10-12 am and by appointment (Moore HRA 2106)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the exploits of John Hawkins and Francis Drake, to Dutchman Piet Heijn'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, and privateers in shaping the emerging colonial economies, societies, and cultures of the Caribbean, from the first arrival of Europeans in 1492 through the consolidation of empires, plantations, and transatlantic trade systems in the eighteenth century.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books are required and can be purchased in the UNCG bookstore:
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.
C. R. Pennell, *Bandits at Sea: A Pirate Reader*. New York University Press, 2001.

These books are also on closed reserves at the circulation desk of the library.

There will also be articles and primary documents on e-reserves, accessible via the course Blackboard site.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

In this course, students are expected to:

- learn the basic narrative of the changing role of piracy in the early modern Caribbean
- develop their ability to critically analyze the major processes that shaped the development of a specific historical phenomenon: in this case, Caribbean piracy
- develop their skills in analyzing and interpreting a variety of primary and secondary sources

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Most weeks we will read the articles and chapters listed under Readings for the Tuesday class, and those listed under Primary Documents for the Thursday class. If there is a change in this schedule I will let you know the week before. **All documents and articles which are not in the required books are on e-reserves.** All e-reserves are accessible via the course Blackboard site. Always bring copies of the week's readings to class.

Unit 1: A Chronological Overview

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

Readings: Anthony, "Overview"

Primary Document: "Columbus Arrives in the Indies"

Week 2 (January 27 & 29): Conquest, Empire, and Early Caribbean Piracy

Readings: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Primary Documents: "English Corsairs to Certain Spaniards;" "The City of Nombre de Dios to the Crown"

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

Reading: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, Chapter 2

Primary Document: "Francis Drake on the Pacific Coast"

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

Reading: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, Chapter 3

Primary Document: "Piet Heyn Captures the Spanish Fleet"

Week 5 (February 17 & 19): Bandit Communities: The Buccaneers

Reading: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, Chapter 4; Bromley, "Outlaws at Sea" (Chapter 9 in Pennell, ed.)

Primary Document: "The First Buccaneers" (in Exquemelin, Part I, Chapter 6, pp. 67-69)

Week 6 (February 24 & 26): The End of an Era

Reading: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, Chapter 6

Primary Document: "The Tryals of the Pyrates"

Week 7 (March 3 & 5): Review and Midterm Exam

****** IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM ON THURSDAY, MARCH 5 ******

******* MARCH 10 & 12: SPRING BREAK *******

****** UNIT I PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19 ******

Unit II: Major Themes

Week 8 (March 17 & 19): Economics: Piracy vs. Privateering

Reading: Starkey, "The Origins of Eighteenth-Century British Privateering" (Chapter 4 in Pennell, ed.); Nadal, "Corsairing as a Commercial System" (Chapter 7 in Pennell, ed.)

Primary Documents: "Captain William Kidd's Royal Commission;" "Captain Plowman's Privateering Commission"

******* UNIT I PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19 *******

Week 9 (March 24 & 26): Life on Board the Pirate Ship

Reading: Burg, "The Buccaneer Community" (Chapter 11 in Pennell, ed.); Cordingly, "Storms, Shipwrecks, and Life at Sea"

Primary Document: "How the buccaneers equip their vessels and their manner of living" (in Exquemelin, Part I, Chapter 7, pp. 70-85); "Pirate Articles"

Week 10 (March 31 & April 2): Female Pirates

Readings: Rediker, "Liberty Beneath the Jolly Roger" (Chapter 15 in Pennell, ed.); Stanley, "The Women Among the Boys"

Primary Document: "The Life of Mary Read"

Week 11 (April 7 & 9): Romanticizing Piracy: A Critical Look at Popular Images

Reading: Cordingly, "Sloops, Schooners and Pirate Films"

Primary Documents: Assorted images

Week 12 (April 14 & 16): Race at Sea

Reading: Kinkor, "Black Men Under the Black Flag" (Chapter 10 in Pennell, ed.); Rediker, "Hydrarchy and Libertalia: The Utopian Dimensions of Atlantic Piracy"

Primary Document: "Of Captain Worley and his Crew;" "Of Captain Lewis and his Crew"

Week 13 (April 21 & 23): Piracy: A Global Perspective

Reading: Antony, "Corsairs, Renegades, and Slaves of the Mediterranean"

Primary Documents: "John Foss' Captivity in Algiers"

Week 14 (April 28 & 30): Retrospective and Exam Review

******* UNIT II PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30 *******

******* FINAL EXAM TO BE SCHEDULED BY THE UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR *******

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Exams (each 25% of grade: 50% total): There will be a midterm exam in class on Thursday, March 5 and a cumulative final exam at the end of the course, as scheduled by the Registrar.

Papers (20% each; 40% of total grade): Students will write a short paper (7-10 pages) for each of the two course units. Papers are due on March 19 (Unit 1) and April 30 (Unit 2). You will receive more information about these assignments at the beginning of each unit.

Attendance and Class Participation (10%): Students will be graded on their attendance, level of preparation, participation in class discussions and group work, and overall classroom behavior.

Grading Scale: A+:97-100, A:94-96, A-:90-93, B+:87-89; B:84-86, B-:80-83, C+:77-79, C:74-76, C-:70-73, D+:67-69, D:64-66, D-:60-63, F:0-59

COURSE POLICIES

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/>. ***If you have any questions about any aspect of this policy, including what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with the professor.***

Attendance: Attendance is expected. Students who must miss multiple classes due to illness or emergency should notify the professor, and consult with fellow students to get up to speed. Students who repeatedly miss class will have difficulty meeting course requirements successfully.

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 an individual drink.

Communication: Please check your UNCG e-mail account and the Announcements section of the course Blackboard site regularly. The Course Documents sections of Blackboard will have copies of the syllabus, assignments, etc. 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 the communication is successful and that all material gets in on time.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Dean of Students (<http://deanofstudents.uncg.edu/>; tel: 45514): Supports and advocates for students in crisis.

Office of Information Technology (<http://www.its.uncg.edu>, tel: 6-TECH): Your source for all tech problems and computer malfunctions. Please note that computer or printer problems are not a valid excuse for turning in an assignment late.

Office of Disability Services (<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>; tel: 45440): Students who have documented disabilities that require special consideration and/or accommodation should register with this office and bring the required paperwork to the professor during the first days of class so we can make the necessary adjustments. No accommodations can be made without this paperwork.

University Writing Center (www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/; tel: 43125): An excellent place to get help with paper structure, grammar, style, etc.