

**HIS 341.01**  
**Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story**  
**Spring 2011**

Tu/Th 12:30-1:45  
Moore HRA 1215

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Office hours: Thursdays 10-12 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**

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.

The books can be purchased in the UNCG bookstore or from online book sellers. They are also on closed reserves at the circulation desk of the library. There will also be articles and primary documents on e-reserve, 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

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

**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

**Unit Tests and Final Exam (each 25% of grade: 75% total):** The Unit 1 test will be on Thursday, February 24, the Unit 2 test on Thursday, April 21. The University Registrar schedules the final exam.

**Pop Quizzes (15%):** Periodic short quizzes will test student's knowledge of the assigned weekly readings.

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

## **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/>. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense which can result in failing the class or expulsion from the university. Know the rules

**Attendance and Class Etiquette:** 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 miss more than a week of class may have difficulty meeting course requirements.

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. Repeatedly arriving late, leaving early, leaving the room during class, and sleeping (or appearing to sleep) are disrespectful and disruptive—they will be counted as absences unless you have discussed extenuating circumstances with the professor.

**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](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 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 students in crisis.

**Office of Information Technology** (<http://www.its.uncg.edu>, tel: 6-TECH): Your source for all tech problems and computer malfunctions.

**Office of Disability Services** (<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>; tel: 45440): Students who have documented disabilities that require accommodation should register with this office and bring the required paperwork to the professor during the first week of class.

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

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**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**UNIT 1**

Most weeks we will read the chapters in Lane for the Tuesday class, and those in Exquemelin for the Thursday class. If there is a change in this schedule I will let you know. **Primary documents and articles which are not in the required books will either be on e-reserves**, which are accessible via the course Blackboard site, **or passed out in class**. Sometimes there also will be class handouts such as maps. Always bring copies of the week's readings to class, as well as any handouts.

**Unit 1: Caribbean Piracy in Three Stages**

***Week 1 (January 11 & 13): Caribbean Piracy in Context***

*Readings:* Anthony, "Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of the West"

*Primary Documents:* Piracy in the Mediterranean

***Week 2 (January 18 & 20): Conquest, Empire, and Early Caribbean Piracy***

*Readings:* Lane, Introduction & Chapter 1; Exquemelin, Part I Chapters 1-3

*Primary Document:* "How the Admiral Departed from Espanola"

***Week 3 (January 25 & 27): The Elizabethan Privateers***

*Reading:* Lane, Chapter 2; Exquemelin, Part I Chapter 4

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

***Week 4 (February 1 & 3): The Dutch Sea-Rovers***

*Reading:* Lane, Chapter 3; Exquemelin, Part I Chapter 5

*Primary Document:* "Piet Heyn Captures the Spanish Fleet"

***Week 5 (February 8 & 10): Bandit Communities: The Buccaneers***

*Reading:* Lane, Chapter 4; Exquemelin, Part I Chapters 6 & 7

*Primary Document:* "Pirate Articles"

***Week 6 (February 15 & 17): The End of an Era***

*Reading:* Lane, Chapter 6 & Conclusions

*Primary Document:* "The Tryals of the Pyrates"

***Week 7 (February 22 & 24): Review and Unit 1 Test***

**\*\*\*\* IN-CLASS UNIT 1 TEST ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 \*\*\*\***