

HIS 341.01
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story
Spring 2012

Class time: Tu/Th 12:30-1:45
Classroom: Moore HRA 1214
Office hours: Thursdays 10-12, and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the exploits of Englishman 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, pirates, 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 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.

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010.

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 to get the correct edition of Exquemelin (Dover publishers). There will also be articles, primary documents, and maps, which I will hand out in class. Always bring copies of the week's readings and the handouts to class. I recommend keeping all the handouts together in a folder.

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 as follows:

Unit 1 & 2 tests: 40% total (two tests, each worth 20%)

Short papers: 40% total (two papers, each worth 20%)
(You will receive specifications for each paper in due time.)

Short exercises, quizzes, and group work: 20% total

This course has no final exam.

Grading Scale:

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

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance and attention in class 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. Cultivate networks with your fellow students. 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 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. If you have extenuating circumstances please discuss them with the professor or send a brief e-mail.

Communication: 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 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.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Unit 1: Early Caribbean Piracy

Week 1 (January 10 & 12): Caribbean Piracy in Context

Readings: Cordingly, Introduction & Chapter 1; Anthony, “Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of the West”

Primary Documents: Piracy in the Mediterranean

Week 2 (January 17 & 19): Conquest, Empire, and the Rise of Caribbean Piracy

Readings: Lane, Introduction & Chapter 1

Primary Document: “How the Admiral Departed from Española”

Week 3 (January 24 & 26): The Elizabethan Privateers

Reading: Lane, Chapter 2; Cordingly Chapter 2

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

Week 4 (January 31 & February 2): The Dutch Sea-Rovers

Reading: Lane, Chapter 3

Primary Document: “Piet Heyn Captures the Spanish Fleet”

Week 5 (February 7 & 9): Summation and Unit 1 Test

Unit 2: The Rise and Fall of Bandit Communities

Week 6 (February 14 & 16): The Buccaneers

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

Primary Document: “Pirate Articles;” Exquemelin, Part I

Week 7 (February 21 & 23): Outlaws and Officials

Reading: Lane, Chapter 4

Primary Document: Exquemelin, Part II

Week 8 (February 28 & March 1): Pirates of the South Seas

Readings: Lane, Chapter 5

Primary Document: Exquemelin, Part III

***** SPRING BREAK MARCH 6 & 8 *****

Week 9 (March 13 & 15): Hunting Down the Pirates

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

Primary Document: “The Tryals of the Pyrates”

***** Paper 1 due on Thursday, March 15 *****

Week 10 (March 20 & 22): Summation and Unit 2 test

Unit 3: Major Themes in Caribbean Piracy

Week 11 (March 27 & 29): Race and Gender at Sea

Readings: Cordingly, Chapter 4

Primary Documents: Anne Bonny and Mary Reid

Week 12 (April 3 & 5): Sailing under the Black Flag

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 5 & 6

Primary Documents: The technology of sailing

Week 13 (April 10 & 12): Pirates at Work

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 7 & 8

Primary Documents: Shipboard life

Week 14 (April 17 & 19): Myths and Realities

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 9 & 10, Afterward

Primary Documents: Pirate fictions

There is no Unit 3 test.

***** Paper 2 due on Tuesday, April 24 *****

This course does not have a final exam.

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. If you have a major personal or family crisis, this office will help you consider your options and develop a plan to get back on track with your studies.

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 so we can make the necessary adjustments. No accommodations can be made without this paperwork.

Office of Information Technology (<http://www.its.uncg.edu>; tel: 6-TECH): Your source for all tech problems, computer malfunctions, issues with Blackboard, etc. The professor cannot help you with any of these! Please note that computer or printer problems are not valid excuses for turning in a paper late. Plan ahead!

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

University Speaking Center (<http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu>): The place to go for help with all oral presentations, whether individual or group.