

HIS 341 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story Spring 2018

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15; SOEB 222

Professor: Dr. Linda Rupert (lmrupert@uncg.edu)

GA: Ms. Meagan Boritz (meboritz@uncg.edu)

Dr. Rupert's office hours: Thursdays 1-3 pm 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 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). Translated by Alexis Brown. Kris Lane, *Pillaging the Empire: Global Piracy on the High Seas, 1500-1750*. **Second edition. Routledge, 2016.**

All these books are **required**. They can be purchased at the UNCG bookstore or from online sellers. They are also on closed reserves at the circulation desk of Jackson Library. **Make sure you have the correct editions!** There will also be articles, primary documents, and maps, which I will hand out in class, and which will be posted in the Files section of the course Canvas site. Always bring copies of the week's readings and the unit handouts to class.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify major moments and trends in the development of Caribbean piracy, situating the actions of individuals and groups in the context of larger structures and wider processes [Historical Comprehension]
- Use historical thinking to contextualize and critically analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources related to Caribbean piracy [Historical Analysis]
- Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past, using effective oral and written arguments [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 participation in group work counts 10%. You will receive more information about these assignments early in the semester.

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: February 6

Midterm paper due: March 1

Unit 2 test: March 20

Unit 3 test: April 24

Final paper due: April 30

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Lectures, discussion, and group work are designed to complement, not repeat, the course readings. Students who repeatedly miss class, arrive late, leave early, do not take notes, or are distracted (especially by electronic devices) rarely do well in my courses. Students who must miss class should consult with fellow students to get up to speed and get copies of notes. Neither the professor nor the GA can provide course notes. If you face a prolonged crisis, such as extended illness, personal emergency, or family tragedy, please contact the Dean of Students. (See below.)

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, using computers and cell phones for non-class activities, and sleeping (or appearing to sleep) interfere with learning and disrupt the class.

Tests, Quizzes and Papers: Makeup unit tests will be given at the discretion of the professor and require documentation of a legitimate absence. Quizzes and group work cannot be made up, but I will drop your lowest three scores (including zeros and absences) in calculating the final grades for each. 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 test and paper early in 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). 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

History Department (his.uncg.edu/; www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/)
Have you considered majoring or minoring in history? It may be easier than you think!

Dean of Students (sa.uncg.edu/dean/support/): Supports and advocates for students in crisis, including those with family emergencies, extended illness, trauma, etc.

Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (ods.uncg.edu/): Students who have documented disabilities that require accommodation should register with OARS and bring in the required paperwork during the first week of class. No accommodations can be made without the appropriate paperwork from OARS.

Information Technology Services (its.uncg.edu/): Your source for all tech problems, including computer malfunctions, issues with Canvas, etc. We cannot help you with these!

University Writing Center (writingcenter.uncg.edu/): Provides help with paper structure, argument, grammar, style, etc.

University Speaking Center (speakingcenter.uncg.edu/): Provides help for all oral presentations, to both individuals and groups.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS (subject to modification)

Unit 1: Interlopers in a Spanish Sea

Week 1 (January 9 & 11): The Birth of Caribbean Piracy

Readings: Anthony, "Pirates, Privateers, & Buccaneers of the West;" Cordingly, Introduction

Week 2 (January 16 & 18): Early Caribbean Corsairs

Readings: Lane, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 3 (January 23 & 25): The Elizabethan Privateers

Readings: Lane, Chapter 2; Cordingly, Chapter 2

Week 4 (January 30 & February 1): The Dutch Sea-Rovers

Readings: Lane, Chapter 3

Week 5 (February 6 & 8): Unit 1 Test and Introduction to Unit 2

Readings: Exquemelin (selections)

Unit 2: The Golden Age of Caribbean Piracy

Week 6 (February 13 & 15): The Rise of Buccaneer Communities

Readings: Lane, Chapter 4; Cordingly, Chapter 3; Exquemelin (selections)

Week 7 (February 20 & 22): Outlaws and Officials

Readings: Lane Chapters 5 & 6; Exquemelin (selections)

Week 8 (February 27 & March 1): The Last English Freebooters

Readings: Lane, Chapter 7; Cordingly, Chapter 8; Exquemelin (selections)

***** Midterm paper due on Thursday, March 1 *****

******* No classes March 5-9: Spring break *******

Week 9 (March 13 & 15): The End of an Era: Hunting Down the Pirates

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters 11 & 12

Week 10 (March 20 & 22): Unit 2 Test and Introduction to Unit 3 (Readings to be announced)

Unit 3: Major Themes in Caribbean Piracy

Week 11 (March 27 & 29): Sailing under the Black Flag

Readings: Cordingly, Chapters. 5-7

Week 12 (April 3 & 5): Race and Social Class at Sea

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

Week 13 (April 10 & 12): Gender and Sexuality

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

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

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

Week 15 (April 24): Unit 3 Test

***** Final paper due on Monday, April 30 *****