

# HIS 341 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story (Spring 2019)

## Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15 (SOEB 102)

**Professor:** Dr. Linda Rupert ([lmrupert@uncg.edu](mailto:lmrupert@uncg.edu))      **GA:** Ms. Katie Crickmore ([kecrickm@uncg.edu](mailto:kecrickm@uncg.edu))  
**Dr. Rupert's office hours:** Tuesdays 1-3 pm, Thursdays 9-10 am, and by appointment (Moore HRA 2105)



From the exploits of Englishmen John Hawkins and Francis Drake, to Dutchman Piet Heyn's daring capture of the Spanish silver fleet, to the French outlaw communities on Hispaniola, 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 region's economies, societies, and cultures. We will also explore differences between historical realities and popular depictions.

### 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). Translated by Alexis Brown.  
Kris Lane, *Pillaging the Empire: Global Piracy on the High Seas*. Second edition. Routledge, 2016.

All these books can be purchased at the UNCG bookstore or from online sellers. They are also on reserve at the circulation desk of Jackson Library. Make sure you have the correct editions!

There will also be primary documents and maps, which I will hand out in class, and will be posted in the Files section of Canvas. Always bring copies of the week's readings and the unit handouts to class.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

There will be three unit tests and two papers. Each is worth 15% of the final grade. Weekly quizzes on the readings count for another 15%; participation in class and group work counts 10%. You will receive more information about the assignments early in the semester.

#### **Major Assignment Dates:**

*Unit 1 test:* Tuesday, February 12      *Unit 2 test:* Tuesday, April 2      *Unit 3 test:* Tuesday, April 30  
*Midterm paper due:* Tuesday, March 14      *Final paper due:* Friday, May 3

#### **Grading Scale:**

A: 93-100, A-: 90-92      B+: 87-89; B: 83-86, B-: 80-82      C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72  
D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62      F: 0-59

### 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 piracy in the early modern Caribbean, using both oral and written arguments [Historical Interpretation]

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** Active engagement in class is key to student success. This means attending, paying close attention, and taking good notes. Students who repeatedly miss class or are distracted (especially by electronic devices) rarely do well in my courses. Lectures, discussion, and group work are designed to complement, not repeat, the course readings. 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 distract 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, with an identical copy uploaded to Canvas. Papers will be docked a full letter grade for each day they are late. You will receive more detailed instructions about each test and paper.

**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 Dr. Rupert 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:** Make sure you read and understand UNCG’s Academic Integrity 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/](http://his.uncg.edu/); [www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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 this paperwork.

**Information Technology Services** ([its.uncg.edu/](http://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/](http://writingcenter.uncg.edu/)): Provides help with paper structure, argument, grammar, style, etc.

**University Speaking Center** ([speakingcenter.uncg.edu](http://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/)): Has useful resources for students who are timid about participating in group or class discussions.