

HIS 341 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story (Spring 2020)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-1:45 pm (MHRA 2209)

Professor: Dr. Linda Rupert (lmrupert@uncg.edu); **Office hours:** Thursdays 10-12 & by app't (MHRA 2105)
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From the daring exploits of French corsairs and Elizabethan privateers in the 1500s, to the independent buccaneer communities of the 1600s, to marauding outlaws in the early 1700s, 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 piracy in shaping the region's economies, societies, and cultures across more than two centuries. We will explore differences between historical realities and popular depictions as well as consider historians' different interpretations.

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.

Jon Latimer, *Buccaneers of the Caribbean: How Piracy Forged an Empire*. Harvard University Press, 2009.

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 and available as e-books via the library's online catalogue. Make sure you have the correct edition of Exquemelin.

There will be weekly handouts, including primary documents, maps, and scholarly articles, which also will be posted in the Files section of Canvas. You will find it useful to have a folder for these handouts. Always bring copies of the week's readings and all the unit handouts to class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Three unit tests: 15% each (45% total)

Weekly quizzes on the readings: 15%

Two papers: 15% each (30% total)

Class participation and group work: 10%

Major Assignment and Test Dates:

Unit 1 test take-home portion due: Tuesday, February 11

Midterm paper due: Thursday, March 19

Unit 3 test: Tuesday, April 28

In-class portion: Thursday, February 13

Unit 2 test: Tuesday, March 24

Final paper due: Friday, May 1

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

Readings: Most weeks we will read secondary sources (historical narratives and interpretations by historians) for Tuesdays, and primary sources (original documents) for Thursdays. Some weeks we will read historians' interpretations for Thursdays.

Handouts: Primary documents, maps, and any readings that are not from the required books will be posted to the Files section of Canvas and handed out in class the week before. Each student can receive one printout of each handout. Every student should have a folder for the unit handouts. Bring this folder to every class.

Attendance: Active engagement in class is key to student success. This means attending, paying close attention, and taking good notes. While there is not a specific grade for attendance, 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. If you miss a class you should consult with fellow students to get up to speed. We cannot provide lecture notes.

Class Etiquette: A classroom is a communal space where we all gather for a brief period to pursue a common goal via group interactions. Arriving late, leaving early, leaving the room during class, using computers and cell phones for non-class activities, and sleeping (or appearing to sleep) all interfere with learning and distract the class. 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 easily without disturbing the class.

Quizzes: There will be quizzes on the readings (secondary sources) on most Tuesdays, based on study questions posted in Canvas Announcements by the end of the previous week. Quizzes cannot be made up, but I will drop the lowest 3 grades (including zeros and absences) in calculating the final grades.

Unit Tests: Makeup unit tests will be given at the discretion of the professor and require documentation of a legitimate reason for absence.

Papers: Papers are due at the beginning of class, in hard copy, with an identical version uploaded to the appropriate assignment in Canvas by that evening. Both are required. Papers will be docked a full letter grade for each day they are late.

You will receive more detailed instructions about all assignments and tests early in the course.

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 us is via e-mail:

Dr. Rupert: lmrupert@uncg.edu; Kate McDannold: kemcdann@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 assignments are received on time.

Feel free to come by during Dr. Rupert's office hours (Thursdays 10-12; MHRA 2105) to discuss any concerns, or make an appointment for another time.

Academic Integrity: Make sure you read and understand UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy; see <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! Browse our website and Facebook page, and feel free to make an appointment with Dr. Rupert to discuss how history might fit into your study plans.

Students First Office (<https://studentsfirst.uncg.edu/>): One-stop resource with lots of useful information.

Dean of Students (sa.uncg.edu/dean/support/): Supports and advocates for students in crisis. If you experience a family emergency, extended illness, a major accident, trauma, etc., they can help you get back on track.

Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (ods.uncg.edu/): Students with documented disabilities that require accommodation must register with OARS and bring the paperwork to class. No accommodations can be made without this completed paperwork.

Information Technology Services (its.uncg.edu/): Your go-to source for all tech problems related to email, computer issues, 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): Besides providing help for in-class presentations, the Speaking Center has useful resources and tips for students who are shy about speaking up in class or participating in group discussions.

OVERVIEW OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Subject to modification. All readings that are not in the required books will be handed out in class the week before and also posted in the Files section of Canvas. You will receive details about the unit tests and the papers early in the semester.

Unit 1: European Interlopers in a Spanish Sea

Week 1 (January 14 & 16): Caribbean Pirates: Myths and Realities

Readings for Thursday: Anthony, "Pirates, Privateers, & Buccaneers of the West;" Cordingly, Introduction & Chapter 1

Week 2 (January 21 & 23): Early Caribbean Corsairs

Readings for Tuesday: Latimer, Introduction & Chapter 1 pp. 7-14

Primary document for Thursday: Excerpts from *Pedro Menendez de Avilés and the Conquest of Florida*

Week 3 (January 28 & 30): The Elizabethan Privateers

Readings for Tuesday: Latimer, Chapter 1 pp. 14-23; Cordingly, Chapter 2

Readings for Thursday: Packet about Elizabethan privateers; excerpts from *Sir Francis Drake: The Construction of a Hero*

Week 4 (February 4 & 6): The Dutch Sea-Rovers

Readings for Tuesday: Latimer, Chapters 2 & 3

Primary documents for Thursday: Packet about the Dutch

Week 5 (February 11 & 13): Unit 1 Summation and Unit 1 Test

Tuesday: Take home portion of Unit 1 test due in class (comparison and analysis of primary sources)

Thursday: In class portion of Unit 1 test

Unit 2: Caribbean Piracy Goes Local

The major primary source this unit will be Exquemelin, *The Buccaneers of America*, supplemented by a packet of primary documents that you will receive at the beginning of the unit. Bring both to class every Thursday.

Week 6 (February 18 & 20): The Rise of Buccaneer Communities

Readings for Tuesday: Reread “Buccaneers in the Caribbean, 1630-1680” in Anthony, “Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of the West,” pp. 11-14; Latimer, Chapters 4 & 5

Primary documents for Thursday: Exquemelin, Part 1, especially pp. 25-37 & 53-85 (suggested: Introduction by Beeching and Part III Chapters 7-9); packet of documents about buccaneers

Week 7 (February 25 & 27): Buccaneers Roam the Caribbean

Readings for Tuesday: Latimer Chapters 6-8

Primary document for Thursday: Exquemelin Part 2, pp. 89-118 (L’Olonnais); packet of documents

Week 8 (March 10 & 12): Outlaws and Officials

Readings for Tuesday: Latimer Chapters 9-11; Cordingly, Chapter 3

Primary document for Thursday: Exquemelin Part 2, pp. 119-208 (Captain Morgan); packet of documents

******* No classes March 2-6: Spring break *******

Week 9 (March 17 & 19): The Last English Freebooters

Readings for Tuesday: Latimer Chapters 12-14

Primary documents for Thursday: Exquemelin and packet of documents

***** Midterm paper due in class on Thursday *****

Week 10 (March 24 & 26): Unit 2 test and Introduction to Unit 3: The Golden Age

Tuesday: Unit 2 test

Readings for Thursday: Reread “The Golden Age of Western Piracy” in Anthony, “Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of the West,” pp. 14-20; Cordingly, Chapters 5-7

Unit 3: The Golden Age of Caribbean Piracy

Week 11 (March 31 & April 2): Race and Social Class at Sea

Readings for Tuesday: Kinkor, “Black Men under the Black Flag;” Rediker, “Hydrarchy and Libertalia”

Primary documents for Thursday: Packet about race and social class among pirates

Week 12 (April 9 & 11): Gender and Sexuality among Pirates

Readings for Tuesday: Cordingly Chapter 4; Stanley, “The Women among the Boys;” Burg, “The Buccaneer Community”

Primary documents for Thursday: Packet about women and gender at sea

Week 13 (April 16 & 18): The End of an Era: Hunting Down the Pirates

Readings for Tuesday: Cordingly, Chapters 11 & 12; Rediker, “The Pirate and the Gallows”

Primary documents for Thursday: Packet of laws, proclamations, etc. against piracy

Week 14 (April 23 & 25): Caribbean Pirates: Myths and Realities Revisited

Readings for Tuesday: Cordingly, Chapters 9 & 10

Primary documents for Thursday: TBA

Week 15: Unit 3 test on Tuesday, April 28

***** Final paper due on Friday, May 1 *****