

History 6686: The Golden Age of Piracy Spring 2020 Thursdays, 5:30P-8P

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"I am a free prince, and I have as much authority to make war on the whole world, as he who has a hundred sail of ships at sea and an army of 100,000 men in the field." ~Black Sam Bellamy

"Had you fought like a man, you need not have been hang'd like a dog." ~Anne Bonny to Jack Rackham

Course Objectives

Mention pirates, and you immediately think of Jack Sparrow, the Jolly Roger, and lots and lots of rum. Or, maybe you think of Starz' highly romanticized *Black Sails*? This semester, we will take on those representations as we explore the myths and histories of the outliers who ruled the seas and nearly brought down empires during piracy's Golden Age. While historians place this between 1650 and 1720, we will expand our discussion to include later enterprises and more modern endeavors. We will also consider the term piracy itself, and how the word evolved and changed over time. Lastly, this course will have a large film component, because you can't discuss popular culture without immersing yourself in it.

Course Readings:

In addition to the supplemental readings found in CourseDen, there are seven books assigned for this class. They can be found in the campus bookstore as well as online.

- ❖ Neil Rennie, *Treasure Neverland: Real and Imaginary Pirates* (Oxford, 2013), ISBN 0198728069
- ❖ Marcus Rediker, *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age* (Beacon, 2005), ISBN 0807050253
- ❖ Janice E. Thompson, *Mercenaries, Pirates, and Sovereigns* (Princeton, 1996), ISBN 0691025711
- ❖ Peter T. Leeson, *The Invisible Hook: The Hidden Economics of Pirates* (Princeton, 2011), ISBN 0691150095
- ❖ Adrian Tinniswood, *Pirates of Barbary: Corsairs, Conquests, and Captivity in the Seventeenth Century Mediterranean* (Riverhead, 2011), ISBN 9781594485442
- ❖ Guy Chet, *The Ocean is a Wilderness: Atlantic Piracy and the Limits of State Authority* (Massachusetts, 2014), ISBN 1625340850
- ❖ Russell K. Skowronek and Charles R. Ewen, *X Marks the Spot: The Archaeology of Piracy* (Florida, 2007), ISBN 081303079X (don't you love that there is an X in the ISBN?)

Special Note

Students, [please carefully review the following information at this link](#). This link contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Accessibility

Please submit any SAR documentation to me within the first week of class, or once received if the semester is already in progress. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs as outlined in your paperwork. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need further assistance.

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

The course will be evaluated on a 10-pt scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59-0. Emphasis will be on clarity of ideas, reading, writing, analytical and critical thinking skills, class participation, and overall presentation. Participation in class discussions and lectures is encouraged and will form a component of the written assignment grades. Grade calculations are as follows:

Book Abstracts 20%

Short Writing Assignments 20%

Research Paper 30%

Class Participation 30%

Book Abstracts

Students will submit a total of **seven abstracts**, one per monograph, of 300 words each in CourseDen over the course of the semester in which they will summarize the central thesis, argumentation evidentiary support, and conclusions. Please see CourseDen for guidelines, formatting requirements, and submission deadlines.

Short Writing Assignments

Students will submit **six one-page analyses** that connect course themes as they relate to films and other supplemental readings at certain checkpoints in the semester. The paper proposal and preliminary bibliography will be categorized as a short writing assignment as well.

Research Paper

Each student will write a **15-20 page formal research paper** on a topic of their choosing. It should be based on primary source research, and cite sources according to the Chicago Manual of Style. We will discuss this paper more in class and in individual meetings.

Class Participation

Class participation is not attendance, but actual participation in the class discussion of the day. **Students who do not participate in daily class discussions will not receive an A in this course.** Please be respectful, or you will be asked to leave. As part of your class participation grade, you will be expected to take the **Mandatory Plagiarism Quiz** and the **Mandatory Student Contract**

Quiz by the deadline specified in the syllabus. Failure to take these quizzes by the deadline will result in a 10 point deduction for each quiz from your class participation grade.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS TO COURSE DEN

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All submitted assignments must be submitted in MS word format. Papers should be double-spaced and be written in size 12 Times New Roman font, black text, with 1" margins. Parenthetical references of (pg) or (Author, pg) are required for all paraphrased or directly quoted information. The usage of any source outside of CourseDen is prohibited, and assignments containing information taken from outside sources will be graded accordingly. Essays that do not contain in text citations will also be graded accordingly.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS LATE OR OUTSIDE COURSE DEN: Late assignments submitted after the scheduled deadline or outside of the Assignments Dropbox will not be accepted unless you have a properly documented excuse. **Late assignments submitted without proper documentation will receive a 0. Please note that this rule is written in stone.**

THE RETURN OF GRADED WORK: Assignments and discussions will be graded within the week.

IN THE EVENT OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

It is **your responsibility** to see that your assignments have posted to CourseDen properly. Please check to make sure that your assignment was uploaded correctly and appears in the appropriate Assignment Dropbox. **It is your responsibility to confirm that your assignments have been submitted properly to the Assignment Dropbox.**

In the event that you are having computer/wifi difficulties, please find an alternative source. **Please do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments.** You are submitting items over the Internet, and sometimes the Internet Gods get angry and withhold access. There are many things that can go wrong in the path between your computer and CourseDen. **Technical problems related to computer connections, equipment, or submitting an incomplete or incorrect assignment cannot be used as an excuse for failure to complete assignments or to participate online.**

Please be aware of alternate Internet connections and computers available through college computer labs, college Learning Resource Centers (libraries), the public library, and any friends, relatives, or neighbors and access them if my personal computer equipment is not working. **It is your responsibility to locate the computer hardware, software and Internet connections necessary to stay connected and current with your course work online.**

A NOTE ABOUT ACADEMIC HONESTY

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class and my policy is one of zero tolerance. All assignments and discussion posts submitted in class must be written in your own words. This includes paraphrasing, which is not necessarily taking a passage word for word, but certainly does not give credit to ideas and/or information. **All assignments will be monitored by Turnitin.**

Plagiarism is a serious offense and it can lead to your expulsion and/or suspension from the University. Every UWG student agrees upon their admission to the university to uphold the UWG Honor Code, which states: “[a]s a West Georgia student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly. I understand that if I violate this code, I will accept the penalties imposed, should I be found guilty of violations through processes due me as a university community member.” UWG students further agree that they will “refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrications, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.”

In short, don’t do it or you’ll have to walk the plank. **Plagiarizers will automatically fail this course.** I will also recommend that UWG administration take action. **You will be removed from the program.**

You can find a link to the UWG Honor Code in the Course Overview Module, as well as links to pages on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it in the Content Module. Also, the mandatory plagiarism quiz will help you with this as well. Furthermore, assignment and discussion guidelines will give instructions on citation formats, but feel free to contact me with questions on how or what to cite. A good rule of thumb is “when in doubt, cite.”

FEDERAL PRIVACY LAWS AND GRADES

I cannot discuss grades or course progress with any student via email or over the phone. It must be in person. Furthermore, I cannot discuss grades or your progress in the course with your parents at all. If you would like to discuss any of your exam grades, your overall grade, or your progress in the course, it must be in person and I am happy to do so at any time. Just make an appointment and we’ll talk.

Other class rules:

- ❖ Be respectful of your classmates. Not everyone shares the same opinion, and that’s ok.
- ❖ No Tobacco Products of any kind. I’m also including eCigarettes and vapes.
- ❖ Cell phones must be on silent or vibrate.
- ❖ If you need to leave early or will be late, please let me know in advance if possible.
- ❖ I’m open to food in the classroom, but please clean up after.

Tentative Course Outline

Mandatory Participation Deadline. Please note that your Student Contract Quiz and Plagiarism Quiz are **due by 11:59P EST, Wednesday, January 15.** Failure to take them by the deadline will result in your removal from this course.

Week 1 – Parley

TH, 1/9: Introductions

Week 2 – Fact vs. Fiction

W, 1/15: Student Contract Quiz and Plagiarism Quiz Due by 11:59P

TH, 1/16: Discuss Rennie, *Treasure Neverland*

SU, 1/19: Rennie Abstract Due by 11:59P

Week 3 – Movie Night

TH, 1/23: Pirates of the Caribbean

SU, 1/26: Short Writing Assignment due by 11:59P

Week 4 – An Imagined Community

TH, 1/30: Discuss Rediker, *Villains of All Nations*

SU, 2/2: Rediker Abstract Due by 11:59P

Week 5 – Piracy and Empire

TH, 2/6: Thompson, *Mercenaries, Pirates, and Sovereigns*

SU, 2/9: Thompson Abstract Due by 11:59P

Week 6 – The Economics of Piracy

TH, 2/13: Discuss Leeson, *The Invisible Hook*

SU, 2/16: Leeson Abstract Due by 11:59P

Week 7 – Movie Night

TH, 2/20: Captain Blood

SU, 2/23: Short Writing Assignment due by 11:59P

Week 8 – Gender and Sexuality

TH, 2/27: Discuss Week 8 Readings. See CourseDen for Details.

TH, 3/1: Short Writing Assignment due by 11:59P

Week 9 – Research Week

TH, 3/5: Class Cancelled

SU, 3/8: Paper Proposals and Preliminary Bibliographies Due by 11:59P

Week 10 – The Complexities of Race

TH, 3/12: Discuss Week 10 Readings. See CourseDen for Details.

SU, 3/15: Short Writing Assignment due by 11:59P

Week 11 – Spring Break

TH, 3/19: NO CLASS

Week 12 – Movie Night

TH, 3/26: Treasure Island

SU/3/29: Short Writing Assignment due by 11:59P

Week 13 – Berbers and Ottomans

TH, 4/2: Discuss Tinniswood, *Pirates of Barbary*

SU, 4/5: Tinniswood Abstract due by 11:59P

Week 14 – The End of an Era

TH, 4/9: Discuss Chet, *The Ocean is a Wilderness*

SU, 4/16: Chet Abstract Due by 11:59P

Week 15 – Piracy's Footprints

TH, 4/16: Discuss Skowronek and Ewen, *X Marks the Spot*

SU, 4/19: Skowronek and Ewen Abstract Due by 11:59P

Week 16 – Movie Night

TH, 4/23: Class Choice

SU, 4/26: Short Writing Assignment due by 11:59P

Final Papers Due: Sunday, May 3 by 11:59P