

Golden Age of Piracy-Honors

HONR-4385

Fall 2020 Section 25H 3 Credits 08/12/2020 to 12/05/2020 Modified 08/08/2020

Description

An in-depth examination of a topic that transcends the boundaries of the fixed curriculum.

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Honors Student - HONE

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Colleen Vasconcellos

Email: cvasconc@westga.edu

Phone: email preferred

Office Hours

Wednesdays: 9A-6P online
(see CourseDen for details)

Meeting Times

100% Online

COMPUTER ACCESS

It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer access with broadband Internet access. All course requirements remain the same whether your computer access is public or private (home).

TECHNICAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS

You should be comfortable with using both WORD and PDF documents, have a working knowledge of CourseDen, and feel comfortable navigating the internet and using email for communication.

UWG|Online HelpDesk (M-F 8-5pm) Phone: 678-839-6248

Email: online@westga.edu

24/7 HelpDesk <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>

Materials

Although this class was listed as being low cost, I have opted to make it no cost. Therefore, everything you need is provided for you in our CourseDen classroom. Please see each unit of instruction in our online classroom for specific unit readings.

Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be expected to:

- Demonstrate the ability to analyze, synthesize, and understand the political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions of Atlantic piracy.
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in higher order abstract, creative, and critical thinking.
- Demonstrate the ability to interpret and analyze primary and secondary sources.
- Demonstrate superior oral and written communication skills.

See CourseDen for Unit-Specific Learning Outcomes.

Evaluation

Criteria

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.

Breakdown

Grade calculations are as follows:

- Short Essays 20%
- Captain's Log 20%
- Unit Specific Activities 25%
- Class Participation 35%

Assignments

ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION

Please note that students who do not actively participate in the class within the first two weeks will be withdrawn by the course at the deadline set by the university. In this class, we will have three mandatory attendance checkpoints during the first week of class:

(1) introduction assignment

(2) the student contract quiz

(3) the plagiarism quiz

These three assignments will be counted towards your class participation grade.

Students who do not fulfill these requirements, which can be found in the Start Here: Syllabus and Start Items Module, will be dropped for non-participation. If you are unable to complete these assignments in the allotted time-frame and have documentation to that effect, you should contact me as soon as possible to avoid being dropped after the deadline. Please note UWG's policy on attendance verification as outlined in Section 204 of the UWG Faculty Handbook: "In fully online or hybrid courses each instructor has the authority to specify in the syllabus what qualifies as attendance at the first class meeting and during the Drop/Add Period to drop students who fail to meet that requirement. Instructors may require students to attend a face-to-face meeting, to login to the online course-delivery system by a specific date, or to take other specified steps at the beginning of the session." If you are dropped and do

not have sufficient documentation as to why you were unable to complete the attendance assignments as outlined here, that decision is final and you will not be reinstated in the course.

Short Essays

Rather than do exams in this class, I've opted to have you write **two short essays of 1000 words each (about 4-5 pages)**. Please see CourseDen for essay specific guidelines. Combined, these essays are 20% of your grade. Late and/or emailed papers will not be accepted without a documented excuse.

- **Biographical Sketch**

Choose one pirate and write a biographical sketch of their life.

- **Defining Atlantic World Piracy**

Now that you've had a class on the Golden Age of Piracy, how do you define piracy?

Captain's Log

You have acquired a ship, a rag tag crew of individuals, and a map of the Atlantic World. Over the course of the semester, you will record your crew's successes, failures, and exploits in your Captain's Log, drawing upon the materials and themes of this course for your inspiration. **This is a semester-long assignment, and you'll be expected to record at least three entries per unit of at least 100 words each, totaling 21 entries.** Please see CourseDen for additional details. This project is 20% of your grade and it will be due the last day of class. **Your Unit Specific Activities can be counted as one entry per unit.** Late and/or emailed journals will not be accepted without a documented excuse.

Unit Specific Activities

Each Unit, you will have **one unit specific activity that will connect to that particular unit's themes.** These will be activities that ask you to create something, such as your own pirate flag or a trial transcript, and they can be counted as an entry in your Captain's Log. Please see CourseDen for additional details. These activities are a combined 25% of your grade. Late and/or emailed journals will not be accepted without a documented excuse.

Class Participation

Class participation grades will come from three separate areas: unit discussions, Google Meet discussions, and the three attendance verification assignments discussed above. Late posts and quizzes will not be counted towards your unit discussion grades. See the Course Overview Module for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.

Here is a bit more information on each of these areas:

- First, there are **7 unit discussions** based on that unit's course material, with each discussion receiving a separate grade that will be applied towards your class participation grade. Each Online Unit Discussion will be graded on a 25 point scale, and you can find that scale in the Course Overview Module under Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.
- Your attendance verification assignments will be counted towards your class participation grades. These three assignments are your **Introductions in the Discussion Forums**, the **Mandatory Plagiarism Quiz**, and the **Mandatory Student Contract Quiz**.
- Finally, we will have **8 Google Meet Discussions**, our initial class meeting and one additional per unit, over the course of the semester, and your active participation in those discussions will receive a separate grade. I do not take attendance, so be advised that this grade is measured by active participation in those virtual discussions and not by your silent presence in Google Meet. Please be sure to mute your microphones unless you are speaking. See the Course Overview Module under Class Participation Guidelines and Grading for more on how this area of your class participation grade will be graded.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS TO COURSEDEN

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.”

Schedule

Tentative Course Outline

Mandatory Attendance and Participation Deadline

Please note that your Introduction, Student Contract Quiz, and Plagiarism Quiz are due by 11:59 PM EST, Friday, August 21. Failure to complete these assignments by this deadline will result in your removal from the course for non-participation.

August 12-28—Unit 1: Under the Black Flag

Your Unit 1 Discussion and Unit Specific Activity are due by 11:59 PM, Friday, August 28

Unit 1 Activity: Create your own Pirate Flag!

- Google Meet Discussions TBD

August 31-September 11—Unit 2: Piracy and Empire

Your Unit 2 Discussion and Unit Specific Activity are due by 11:59 PM, Friday, September 11

Unit 2 Activity: Write your own Pirate Code of Conduct

- Google Meet Discussions TBD

September 14-25—Unit 3: A Pirate's Life for Me

Your Unit 3 Discussion and Unit Specific Activity are due by 11:59 PM, Friday, September 25

Unit 3 Activity: Write your own Urban Legend

- Google Meet Discussions TBD

September 28-October 9—Unit 4: Intersectionality

Your Unit 4 Discussion and Unit Specific Activity are due by 11:59 PM, Friday, October 9

Your Pirate Bio is also due by 11:59PM, Friday, October 9

Unit 4 Activity: There is none this unit so you can work on your paper instead.

- Google Meet Discussions TBD

October 12-23—Unit 5: The End of an Era

Your Unit 5 Discussion and Unit Specific Activity are due by 11:59 PM, Friday, October 23

Unit 5 Activity: Choose your own ending

- Google Meet Discussions TBD

October 26-November 6—Unit 6: Piracy's Footprints

Your Unit 6 Discussion and Unit Specific Activity are due by 11:59 PM, Friday, November 6

Unit 6 Activity: Treasure Hunt

- Google Meet Discussions TBD

November 9-20—Unit 7: Fact vs. Fiction

Your Unit 7 Discussion and Unit Specific Activity are due by 11:59 PM, Friday, November 20

Unit 7 Activity: Fictional Pirates

- Google Meet Discussions TBD

Other Important Deadlines:

- Your Captain's Log is due Wednesday, November 25
- Your Definitions Paper is due Wednesday, December 2
- Grades are Due to the Registrar no later than 12PM on Monday, December 7

Institutional Policies

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate

others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGcares](#).

ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

COVID-19

Proctored Exams/Online Instruction: Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a

face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

Student FAQs: For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php>).