

The Golden Age of Piracy
HIUS 133
University of California, San Diego
Winter 2015

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Wednesday 1:15-3:00

Mon., Wed., Fri.: 12:00-12:50
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Office Hours:

This upper division lecture course is an interdisciplinary study of the Golden Age of piracy in the English speaking world. In his tale, *The Water Witch* (1830), James Fenimore Cooper noted two of the most enduring mythologies of early American history: “We have had our buccaneers on the water, and our witches on the land.” While the unfortunate women of Salem have been the subject of intense scholarly scrutiny, pirates remain on the margins of historical and literary studies. This course places pirates on center stage as a lens through which to study the massive transformations of the late sixteenth to the nineteenth century that marked the early phases of what is today called “globalization.” The rise and fall of global piracy correlated with a number of watershed events including the consolidation of the first British Empire, the integration of American colonial communities with global commerce, the formalization of international law, the rise of the novel, the first use of paper money in the Anglophone world, and the beginning of a local American press. This course introduces students to interdisciplinary studies and the use of primary sources. We will focus on a range of topics including global economics, international law, imperial politics, gender, literary studies, social class, journalism, and religion. Lastly, we will explore the construction of the Golden Age in historical memory in readings by James Fenimore Cooper, Edgar Allan Poe, Washington Irving, and Robert Louis Stevenson. We will also look at contemporary images of piracy in modern American culture including Disney’s movie series *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The course will conclude with a reading about modern day piracy in relation to globalization.



Readings: (All books are sold at the UCSD bookstore)

- Daniel Defoe, *The General History of the Pyrates* (edited by Manuel Schonhorn)
- Kris Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*

**All other readings are online through *Early American Imprints*, *Early English Books Online*, or *Early American Newspapers*. They are all under “web links” on the course web site.

Assignments: The assignments for this class are intended to give you a sense of the primary sources historians use to understand “The Golden Age of Piracy.” Fortunately, many of these sources have been digitized so you can see them in their original form online. You will choose to write **2 out of 3** short (two to three pages) essays. For the final paper, you will focus on analyzing one primary source document (published before 1800) chosen from online databases. You can find those databases on the course web site. No material based on outside web sites is acceptable and your arguments should be based on the original documentary material. The point of the course is for you to know more about historical piracy than the people who post information on the web often based on myth not reality.

1. Assignment One: (15%)
2. Assignment Two: (15%)
3. Midterm Exam: (20%)
4. Final Quiz: (10%)
5. Final Paper: (40%)

NOTE: You should present two copies of each written assignment, one for me

and one for the course readers. All essays must properly cite sources. Familiarize yourself with course content on the course website because this will be the basis of your research and reading and there are links to help with citations. Cite scanned material based on the original book and not the web link because it is an image not a transcription. You will receive bonus points if you work with the original books at UCSD's rare book collection.

Sections: There are no sections for this course but I will arrange informal *voluntary* dinners once a week at one of the college dining halls.

Academic Honesty: Students may work in groups and are encouraged to discuss paper topics. However, they are to write their own essays. If you copy material from assigned or unassigned texts you must cite the source by using quotation marks and indicating where the material came from. Every essay can be written using assigned readings or primary source documents found among the web links on the course web site. In-class exams are closed book with no texts or crib sheets. Cheating will be dealt with according to UCSD's policy on Academic Dishonesty.



Course Schedule (readings may be subject to change)

Monday, January 5

Introduction to The Golden Age of Piracy

*Reading: Skim through the International Chamber of Commerce 2012 Piracy Report and the live map.

Skim Edward Ward's *The Wooden World Dissected* (1707) for crew member titles
[Be prepared for Wednesday's lecture]
Search Oxford English Dictionary Online for key terms "pirate," "piracy,"
"corsair," "filibuster," "admiralty," "vice-admiralty," "privateer," "buccaneer"
[Be prepared with answers and dates for discussion in class on Friday]

Wednesday, January 7

Life at Sea

[Pretend the room is a ship and we are all on board at sea. Come with questions.]

Friday, January 9

Piracy and the Law

Monday, January 12

Sir Francis Drake and the Elizabethan Seadogs

*Reading: Kris Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, pp. xv-61; Daniel Defoe, *A General History of the Pyrates*, pp. xliii-xlvi; *Ward and Danseker two notorious pyrates*, (London, 1609).

Wednesday, January 14

Renegades and Barbary Corsairs

Friday, January 16

The Earl of Warwick's Piratical Colonization

Monday, January 21 [Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday; NO CLASS]

*Reading: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, pp. 62-130

Exquemelin, A. O., *Bucaniers of America, or, A true account of the most remarkable assaults committed of late years upon the coasts of the West-Indies, by the bucaniers of Jamaica and Tortuga, both English and French* (1684); In the "Crooke" edition read preface, letter from the translator, pp. 1-11, 25-52 (Skim the rest).

Wednesday, January 21

Port Royal and Sir Henry Morgan

Friday, January 23

MOVIE DAY

Monday, January 26

The Rise of the South Sea Pirates

*Reading: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, pp. 131-163;
Lionel Wafer (pp. 1-10, skim through the rest), William Dampier (preface material 403-440, skim through the rest), Bartholomew Sharp in the 1699 edition of *Esquemeling* (section two pp. 45-51).

Assignment #1: Write a 2 to 3 page essay analyzing a primary source document dealing with piracy printed before 1705 in UCSD's Special Collections Library.

Wednesday, January 28
The Adventures of Sir William Phips

Friday, January 30
William Dampier: Pirate/Hydrographer

Monday, February 2
The Rise of the Red Sea Pirates

*Reading: Lane, *Pillaging the Empire*, pp. 164-204;
--*The Tryals of Joseph Dawson, Edward Forseith, William May, [brace] William Bishop, James Lewis, and John Sparkes for several piracies and robberies by them committed in the company of Every the grand pirate, near the coasts of the East-Indies, and several other places on the seas...29th of October, 1696, and ended on the 6th of November.* (London, 1696).
--*An Account of the behaviour, dying speeches, and execution of Mr. John Murphey, for high treason, and William May, John Sparcks, William Bishop, James Lewis, and Adam Foresith for robbery, piracy and felony, at the execution-dock on Wednesday the 25th of November, 1696.* (London, 1696).

Wednesday, February 4
The Spirit of 1696

Friday, February 6
Pirate Riot

Monday, February 9
Captain Kidd

*Reading: Defoe, *A General History of the Pirates*, pp. 377-379, 440-451.
--Cotton Mather, *Faithful Warnings to Prevent Fearful Judgments* (1704)
--Search "Quelch" in Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series
Assignment #2: Search of a Trial in newspapers or imprints, etc.

Wednesday, February 11
The Trial of Captain John Quelch

Friday, February 13
Transformation



Monday, February 16 [President's Day Holiday; NO CLASS]

*Reading: Daniel Defoe, *The General History of the Pyrates* (pp. 359-382, 452-510, 599-615, 71-134).

Wednesday February 18
MIDTERM EXAM

Friday, February 20
The Information Revolution

Monday, February 23
Daniel Defoe and Cotton Mather

*Reading: Daniel Defoe, *The General History of the Pyrates* (49-70, 148-166, 194-337, 383-451, 585-598).

Assignment #3: Write a 2 to 3 page essay analyzing the *General History of the Pyrates*.

Wednesday, February 25
The General History of the Pyrates

Friday, February 27
The Abandon'd

Monday, March 2
The Barbary Wars

*Reading: Alan Taylor, “The Early Republic’s Supernatural Economy: Treasure Seeking in the American Northeast, 1780-1830,” *American Quarterly*, Vol. 38, no. 1 (Spring, 1986), pp. 6-34. Edgar Allan Poe, *The Gold Bug* and Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Captain Kidd’s Money*.

Wednesday, March 4
Piracy in American Memory

Friday, March 6
Alexander Tardy and Nineteenth Century Piracy

Monday, March 9
The Infantilized Pirate
*Reading: *Treasure Island*
*Reading: Skim through the International Chamber of Commerce 2013 Piracy Report on TED.

Wednesday, March 11
Piracy Today: Possible visit from former navy officer in charge of anti-piracy operations.

Friday, March 13
Final Quiz
Pirates of Penzance Movie.

FINAL PAPER DUE THROUGH TURNITIN

In 6-8 pages, analyze a primary source that illuminates something about the Golden Age before 1750. You are encouraged to use UCSD’s Special Collections Library but you may also use *Early American Imprints*, *Early English Books Online*, *Early American Newspapers*, *Eighteenth Century Online*, *the Calendar of State Papers*, or *The General History of the Pyrates*.

