

HISTORY 2188B
Pirates & Piracy on The World's Seas and in the Public Imagination

Winter 2021 (Online)

Professor Mike Dove

Office Hours: Mondays, 1pm-3pm (Zoom/ Email)

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Images: Lady Cheng; Vikings; Blackbeard; Captain Jack Sparrow

This is a draft syllabus. Please see the OWL course website for the complete syllabus prior to the start of term, ie. 11 January 2021. This course will be offered in a virtual, asynchronous format.

Course Description:

This course examines the history of pirates and piracy from antiquity through to the present day. Among its major themes are changing definitions of piracy; the reasons individuals, groups, and nations have practiced or supported piracy; and how pirates have been depicted in popular culture.

Course Syllabus:

Pirates have been the scourge of the seas since maritime trade and commerce began. From its origins in the classical period to its continued existence in the modern day, piracy has had significant economic, political, social and cultural effects on societies. The Jolly Roger, Long John Silver, the “prostitute pirate” Lady Cheng, Blackbeard and Captain Jack Sparrow have informed popular depictions of piracy and stirred romantic visions of freedom, adventure and buried treasure. This course seeks to separate myth from reality by tracing the history of piracy from antiquity through the medieval and early modern pasts to the present day.

Among the chief questions explored throughout the course will be what constituted piracy in a given era; why people ‘turned pirate’; what a pirate’s life was like; and why pirates continue to generate public fascination. Changes in the definition of piracy, from violent robbery at sea to theft and murder of any kind, were driven by major societal transitions such as the rise of nation-states and their projection of political, military and commercial power through permanent navies. Privateering or state-sanctioned piracy, hostage-taking and kidnapping, as well as bootlegging and terrorism, will be discussed. Were pirates radicals? Early democrats? Heroes? Villains?

The motives for turning pirate and the nature of that reality will be discerned through examining themes of race, class, gender, labour, sex, religion, and the ideals of equality, liberty and fraternity. Pirates and piracy will be examined through an interdisciplinary lens, framing questions and using methodologies from history as well as archaeology, film studies, folklore, law, literature, sociology/ criminology, visual arts, and music.

Upon completion of this course, students should have:

- o an understanding of the origins, causes and major periods of piracy in world history;
- o identified significant events and personalities in the history of global piracy;
- o assessed the impact and enduring relevance of piracy on the economic, political, military, social, and cultural history of world societies;
- o separated myth from reality through examining the depiction of piracy in popular culture (fiction, folklore, literature, film);
- o a better understanding of how to critically assess both primary and secondary sources on the extensive history of global piracy;
- o explored themes relating to the history of piracy through a variety of disciplinary approaches and methods;
- o further developed highly transferable skills of critical thinking;
- o expressed their ideas and arguments clearly and concisely in writing.

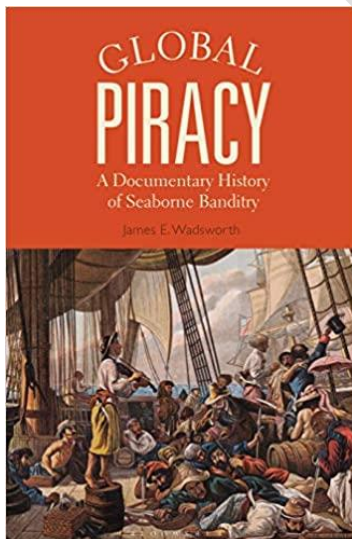


Image: James E. Wadsworth, *Global Piracy: A Documentary History of Seaborne Banditry* (Bloomsbury, 2019)

Course Materials:

There is one textbook for the course, available for purchase through The Book Store at Western, or as either hardcopy or eBook from several vendors, including Amazon or Vital Source: <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/global-piracy-james-e-wadsworth-v9781350058200>

kobo: https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/ebook/global-piracy?utm_source=indigo&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=retailer

or Kindle: https://www.amazon.ca/Global-Piracy-Documentary-Seaborne-Banditry-ebook/dp/B07MT4NPKK/ref=sr_1_6?keywords=global+piracy&qid=1590782650&sr=8-6

Additional readings, consisting of book chapters, articles, illustrations and videos, are accessible through the OWL (Sakai) course website, as noted in the complete course syllabus.

Methods of Evaluation:

Midterm Take-Home Exam (1 Week) 40% Posted: Friday 05 February Due: Friday 12 February 2021

Final Exam 60% Posted 24-Hours prior to start time (TBA: Scheduled by Registrar – April Exam Period)

Exams

Students will be expected to write two exams: a week-long take-home midterm exam, and a final exam scheduled during the April examination period. They will not be timed, rather, students will have the full time indicated to complete them. Both exams shall be submitted through the OWL course website. Exams will be non-cumulative. Both exams will feature two sections: one will ask students to identify and describe the significance of a choice of five of ten historical terms; and the other section will ask students to write on a choice of essay-style questions. These essay-style questions will be selected by the instructor from those questions posted on each unit to help guide students in their reading.

The **Midterm Take-Home Exam** will examine students on course materials from Week 1 to Week 4 inclusive and will be posted a week prior to its due date. There will be no class in Week 5 to allow students to write the midterm exam. Students should prepare their answers with reference to the course materials (ie. lectures, readings, etc.) only. Information and sources external to the course will not be given credit. Student responses should follow essay-style format, ie. full sentences and paragraphs; 12 pt. font; double-spaced; citation of sources according to Chicago Manual of Style. Remember that details and evidence to support your answers are essential. All midterm exam answers must include detailed and complete citations from the applicable readings.

The midterm exam will be posted at 9:00am EST on Friday, 05 February 2021 and will be due by 11:59pm EST on Friday, 12 February 2021. Students must upload their exams as a Word doc to Western's Turnitin service through the OWL course website. They will receive their graded exam electronically within two weeks of the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted. This exam format is designed to accommodate student accessibility issues and those writing in different time zones in the country and around the world. In cases where accommodation has been approved by an academic counsellor for medical or personal reasons, a separate make-up exam will be scheduled at a later date. Please note that the OWL service can freeze up when there is a spike in submissions, so DO NOT leave your submission to the last minute. The midterm exam is weighted at 40% of the final course grade.

The final exam will be written during the April Examination Period, as scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. It will examine students on all course materials since the midterm exam (ie. Weeks 6 to 13 inclusive). Students should prepare their answers with reference to the course materials (ie. lectures, readings, etc.) only. Information and sources external to the course will not be given credit. Student responses should follow essay-style format, ie. full sentences and paragraphs; 12 pt. font; double-spaced. Please note that students are not required to formally cite their sources on the final exam, though one should mention relevant readings when providing details and evidence to support their answers. Students will follow the same process for submission as they did for the midterm exam, ie. upload their exams as a Word doc to Western's Turnitin service through the OWL course website. Late submissions of the final exam are not permitted. This exam format is designed to accommodate student accessibility issues and those writing in different time zones in the country and around the world. In cases where accommodation has been approved by an academic counsellor for medical or personal reasons, a separate make-up exam will be scheduled at a later date. The final exam is weighted at 60% of the final course grade.

Course Schedule and Readings:

[Please note that several additional readings will be assigned in this course. They will appear on the final version of the course syllabus, which will be posted on the OWL-Sakai course website prior to the beginning of term.]

This course will be taught through the OWL (powered by Sakai) course website. It contains all course materials except the textbook and is where students will access weekly recorded lectures, submit their midterm take-home exam and final exam, receive updates and additional resources, and access their grades.

I hope this will be an enjoyable experience for you. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are encountering issues or have concerns about your course experience. We will work towards finding a solution. Thank you for enrolling.

Arrrr!

Cap'n Dove

WEEK 1 (11 - 15 January): Pirates & Piracy: An Introduction

Readings: TBA

WEEK 2 (18 - 22 January): Sea Robbers of Antiquity

Readings: TBA

WEEK 3 (25 - 29 January): Medieval Sea Raiders: Muslim Corsairs & Viking Invaders

Readings: TBA

WEEK 4 (01 - 05 February): Elizabethan Seadogs

Readings: TBA

WEEK 5 (08 - 12 February): NO CLASS - MIDTERM EXAM DUE: FRIDAY, 12 February 2021

Readings: None

NO CLASS – WINTER STUDY BREAK: 15 - 19 February 2021!

Week 6 (22 - 26 February): Piracy's 'Golden Age': Buccaneering and the Pirate Round

Readings: TBA

WEEK 7 (01 - 05 March): Piracy's 'Golden Age': 'The Most Notorious Pirates'

Readings: TBA

WEEK 8 (08 - 12 March): Female Pirates & Agents of Piracy

Readings: TBA

WEEK 9 (15 - 19 March): Pirates & Privateers of Atlantic Canada

Readings: TBA

WEEK 10 (22 - 26 March): Rovers of the Barbary Coast

Readings: TBA

WEEK 11 (29 March - 02 April): Sea Bandits of China and SE Asia

Readings: TBA

WEEK 12 (05 - 09 April): Modern Piracy

Readings: TBA

WEEK 13 (12 April): Pirates & Piracy in Popular Culture

Readings: TBA

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,

for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness