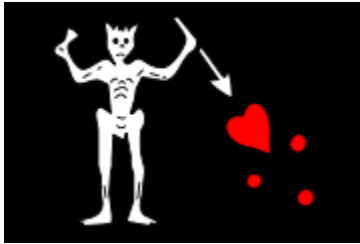


**Department of History, Carleton University**  
**HIST 3906C, Topics in World History**  
**History of Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750**

**Winter 2009**



**Time:** Wednesday and Friday, 1:05 to 2:25 pm

**Location:** 202 Tory Building

**Course Website:** [webct6.carleton.ca](http://webct6.carleton.ca)

**Instructor:** Christine Rivas

**Office:** 443 Paterson Hall

**Email:** [lethifold76@rogers.com](mailto:lethifold76@rogers.com) or [crivas@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:crivas@connect.carleton.ca)

**Office Hours:** 2:30 to 4:00 on Fridays

**Course Description:** Piracy has been described as one of the world's oldest trades. Indeed, for as long as men have earned their livelihood from the seas, there have been pirates ready to defraud them of their legitimately acquired catch and cargo. Spanish conquest and discovery of precious mineral wealth in the Caribbean and Spanish American mainland provided the impetus for the onset of piracy in the Americas. This course begins with an explanation of the reasons behind the shift in the focus of piracy from the European Atlantic coast to the Caribbean Sea. It explores the variety of approaches devised by the French, English and Dutch to break into Spain's monopoly commerce, namely, contraband slave trading, privateering and piracy. The course also traces the Spanish Crown's changing reactions and attempts to suppress these illicit activities, as well as the long-term economic consequences of piracy in the Caribbean basin. The dynamics of European power politics in the Caribbean provides the context for the study of the socio-cultural and political life of pirate individuals and bands, on shipboard, as well as in their permanent bases of Tortuga, Saint-Domingue, Port Royal, and along the American mainland. In doing so, the course highlights the dichotomy inherent in the position of privateers, as they were simultaneously acting in the name of the Crown, as well as their own best interest. Finally, the course explores the image of piracy in the popular psyche and its evolution in the literature and motion pictures.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course

- \*You will have acquired an excellent understanding of the different types of piracy, their functions and cycles.
- \*You will comprehend the relationship of piracy to the rising European nation-states.
- \*You will learn to think critically about primary and secondary sources related to piracy, as well as the construction of the subject in popular literature and film.

### **Course Organization:**

We will be meeting in a lecture room on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:05 to 2:25pm. On Wednesdays the whole class will meet for a lecture on a particular theme. Fridays, with the exception of certain days that have been reserved for movies or presentations, the class will be split into two forty minutes discussion groups. At the first class of the semester, you will be informed of the composition of the groups and the exact meeting schedule.

### **Required Materials:**

- a) *Bandits at Sea: A Pirates Reader*. Edited by C.R. Pennell. New York: New York University Press, 2001.
- b) Exquemeling, Alexander. *The Buccaneers of America*. New York: Dover Books, 2000.
- c) Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*. New York: Penguin Books, 1999.

These books are available at Mother Tongue Books, 1067 Bank St, 613-730-2346.

\*A copy of each of the above books has been placed on reserve for this course, as well as Lane, Kris. *Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1998 and Johnson, Charles. *A General History of Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pirates*: New York: Lyons Press, 1998.

\*\*Other readings, as well as short extracts to be used in in-class exercises will be posted on WEBCT and it is recommended that students check the course website at least once a week and particularly on Mondays.

### **Course Requirements:**

- 1) All students must have access to *WEB CT* ([webct6.carleton.ca](http://webct6.carleton.ca)) as all course related communication will be done via this system. To be accepted as a WEB CT user, you need your Connect email account. All course communication will be done via WEBCT.
- 2) All students must also have a valid Carleton MacOdrum Library account in order to be able to download the assigned weekly readings from the electronic journals.
- 3) Students are expected to attend classes, read the assigned readings or book on the date specified and be ready to discuss them in class, as well as participate in any exercises or activities.

**\*All or nothing rule:** Students must complete all of the course work, including all of the written assignments and the midterm examination to receive a passing grade for the whole course.

**\*\* Late Policy:** There is a **four percent per day penalty** that will be imposed on work that is handed in late. **No electronic submissions will be accepted.**

**\*\*\* There are no opportunities for extra credit.**

### **Evaluation**

Class Participation

20%

Your participation grade is not strictly based on attendance. You must demonstrate that you have read the assigned readings by participating in group discussions. Participation is evaluated for quality, rather than quantity.

Film Review

15%

You will be expected to write a 1,000 word film review. Your summary should include a synopsis of the main plot and characters. It should also identify the source inspiration for the film, name of the director and his credentials, as well as your critical review of the performances. Further information will be given to you in a hand out sheet in class. The review is **due at the beginning of class on February 6, 2009.**

Midterm

25%

The midterm will take place during class on Wednesday February 11, 2009. It will consist of some short answer questions and one essay question.

Essay

40%

You will also be expected to write **one essay of seven to ten typewritten pages**, printed on standard paper with one inch margins on each side, double spaced and in twelve point font. The papers must have either **foot or endnotes in Chicago style**, as well as a **bibliography**. You must use no fewer than **seven scholarly secondary sources** for your paper. Every effort should be made to present your work in grammatically correct English with few spelling and typographical errors.

Your essay must be on a topic related to a theme covered in the course. **The paper will be due at the beginning of class on March 20, 2009.**

[Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. All incidents will be reported. Please see the Carleton Undergraduate Calendar for university regulations on academic offences.]

Evaluation:

Class Participation: 20%

Film Review: 15%

Midterm: 25%

Essay: 40%



Tentative Weekly Schedule:

\* *Bandits at Sea: A Pirates Reader*. Edited by C.R. Pennell. New York: New York University Press, 2001, is referred to simply as (C.R. Pennell) in the weekly schedule.

**Week 1** (January 7 & 9)

Introduction to Historiography and Themes of Privateering, Piracy and Contraband Trade in the Early Modern Period

Reading: **1)** C.R. Pennell, "Introduction: Brought to Book: Reading about Pirates," (C.R. Pennell), pp. 3-24 and **2)** John L. Anderson, "Piracy and World History: An Economic Perspective on Maritime Predation," (C.R. Pennell), pp. 82-106.

\*Group 1 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 2 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 2** (January 14 & 16)

Maritime Revolution and the Voyages of Exploration

Reading: **1)** David J. Starkey, "Pirates and Markets" (C.R. Pennell), pp. 107-124 and **2)** "Hostis Humani Generis- The Pirate as Outlaw in the Early Modern Law of the Sea," in *Pirates? The Politics of Plunder, 1550-1650* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).- On WEBCT

\*Group 2 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 1 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 3** (Jan 21 & 23)

The Elizabethans, Spanish American Treasure and the Slave Trade

Movie- The Sea Hawk

Reading: Mark Netzoff, "Sir Francis Drake's Ghost: Piracy, Cultural Memory, and Spectral Nationhood," in *Pirates? The Politics of Plunder, 1550-1650* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).- on WEBCT

**Week 4** (Jan. 28 & 30)

The Rise of Buccaneering: France, England and the Netherlands

Reading: Exquemeling, part 1 and II

\*Group 1 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 2 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 5:** (Feb. 4 & 6)

Buccaneers in the South Seas

Reading: 1) Exquemeling Parts III and 2)Raveneau de Lussan- On WEBCT

\*Group 2 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 1 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 6** (Feb. 11 & 13)

**Wednesday: In Class Midterm Examination**

**Friday:** Essay Topic Consultation and/or Library Research

-----**READING WEEK**-----

**Week 7** (Feb. 25 & 27)

The Rise and Fall of Freebooters: Captain Kidd, Blackbeard and Bartholomew Roberts

**Reading:** **1)** J.S. Bromley, “Outlaws at Sea, 1660-1720: Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity among the Caribbean Freebooters,” (C.R. Pennell), pp. 169-194 and **2)** Anne Pérotin-Dumon, “The Pirate and the Emperor: Power and the Law on the Seas, 1450-1850” (C.R. Pennell), pp. 25-54.

\*Group 1 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 2 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 8** (Mar. 4 & 6)

The Eighteenth Century Pirates and their Community

**Reading:** **1)** Kenneth J. Kinkor, “Black Men under the Black Flag” (C.R. Pennell), 195-210 and **2)** B.R. Burg, “The Buccaneer Community,” (C.R. Pennell), 211-243.

\*Group 2 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 1 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 9** (Mar. 11 & 13)

The Decline of Piracy: Woodes Rogers

**Reading:** **1)** Claire Jowitt, Scaffold Performances: The Politics of Pirate Execution,” in *Pirates? The Politics of Plunder, 1550-1650* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007)- on WEBCT and **2)** Captain Johnson, “The Tryal of the Pyrates at Providence,” in *A General History of the Pyrates* (New York: Dover Publications, 1999)- On WEBCT

\*Group 1 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 2 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 10** (Mar. 18 & 20)

Piracy in Novels and at the Movies

**Reading:** Robert Louis Stevenson. *Treasure Island*.

\*Group 2 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 1 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 11** (Mar. 25 & 27)

Movie-Treasure Island

**Reading:** Robert Louis Stevenson. *Treasure Island*. (discussion continued)

\*Group 1 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 2 (1:45 to 2:25pm)

**Week 12** (Apr. 1 & 3)

Fictional and Real Women in Piracy

**Reading:** **1)** Marcus Rediker, “Liberty Beneath the Jolly Roger: The Lives of Anne Bonny and Mary Read, Pirates,” (C.R. Pennell), 299- 320 and **2)** John C. Appleby, “Women and Piracy in Ireland: From Gráinne O’Malley to Anne Bonny,” (C.R. Pennell), 283-298.

\*Group 2 (1:05 to 1:40pm)/ Group 1 (1:45 to 2:25pm)