

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of History  
Winter 2016

**History 2188B:  
Pirates & Piracy on the World's Seas and in the Public Imagination**



**-DRAFT SYLLABUS-**

**(MAY UNDERGO MINOR CHANGES PRIOR TO START OF TERM)**

Instructor:	Michael Dove	Email:	<a href="mailto:mdove2@uwo.ca">mdove2@uwo.ca</a>
Office:	Lawson Hall 1202	Location:	UCC 37
Office Hrs:	Monday, 12:00pm - 2:00pm	Class Time:	Wednesday, 10:30am – 12:30pm

**DESCRIPTION:**

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.

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? The world’s earliest democrats? Heroes or 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.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

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

2.0 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

## PREREQUISITE(S):

None

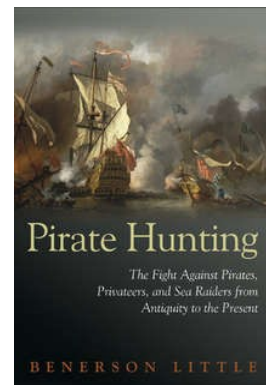
## REQUIRED TEXTS:

The textbook is available for purchase new and used at the Western University Bookstore. For your convenience, a copy of it has been placed on 2HR Reserve at D.B. Weldon Library.

**Benerson Little, *Pirate Hunting: The Fight Against Pirates, Privateers, and Sea Raiders From Antiquity to the Present* (Potomac, 2010)**

## EVALUATION:

Exam #1	03 February 2016	25%
Exam #2	09 March 2016	25%
Final Exam	Written during Spring Examination Period	50%



## **EXAMINATIONS:**

Exam #1 and Exam #2 will be written **in class during class time on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> respectively**. Students are responsible for all course material from Weeks One to Four inclusive for Exam #1, and all course material from Weeks Five to Seven inclusive for Exam #2.

The **Final Exam** will be scheduled **during the Spring Final Examination Period in April** by the Office of the Registrar. It will cover all course material from Weeks Eight to Eleven inclusive.

Each exam will be two hours. Each will consist of two parts: a choice of short answer questions, whereby students are asked to identify and describe the historical significance of particular terms drawn from the lectures and readings; and a second section that will ask students to write on a choice of essay-format questions. **Neither electronic devices nor additional resources are permitted in examinations.**

For all medical and non-medical issues that might warrant accommodation with regard to examinations, please report to academic counselling. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain assistance.

## **POLICY ON MAKE-UP EXAMS**

Requests for make-up exams in this course will only be granted for medical reasons or family emergencies. Students must complete a Western Student Medical Certificate [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) and arrange a meeting with the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty, who will process the request and decide whether or not it is acceptable. Family emergencies must also be documented and brought to the attention of a counselor. If the counselor deems the request to be acceptable, then the instructor will be notified that an extension be agreed upon by the student and the instructor. As per university policy, only the counselor (ie. Dean's Office) can determine whether or not accommodation should be granted. Please refer to the following website for more information about Western's Policy on Medical Illness: <http://student.uwo.ca>

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Electronic devices may be used in class for the taking of notes. To encourage civility and respect for one another in the classroom, the recreational use of lap-tops (ie. web browsing, emailing, etc.), as well as the use of all wireless handheld devices (ie. cell phones) is not permitted in the classroom during class. Filming of lectures is not permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **COURSE WEBSITE:**

Students should consult the course website through OWL (powered by Sakai) at: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> for course information, including the full syllabus, schedule, announcements, links to weekly readings, and course grades.

**LECTURE & READING SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK ONE: 06 January**

**Welcome to the Course!**

Reading: None



**WEEK TWO: 13 January**

**Pirates & Piracy:  
An Introduction**

Reading:  
pp. 1-15.

Little, "Of Black Flags and  
Bloody Banners,"

**WEEK THREE: 20 January**

**Sea Bandits of Antiquity**

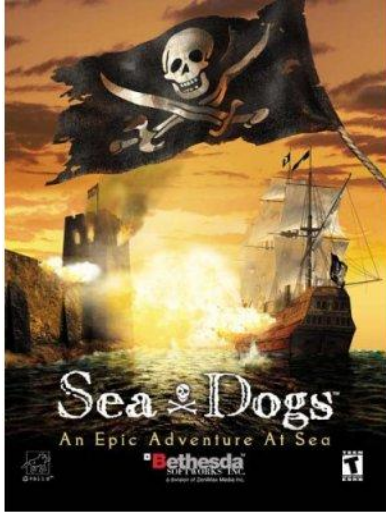
Reading: Little, "Heroes of the Fantastic," pp. 17-33;  
"In the Age of Ancient Empires," pp. 35-45;  
"Of Laurel Leaves and Pirate Princes," pp.  
47-69.

**WEEK FOUR: 27 January**

**Medieval Sea Raiders:  
Viking Invaders & Muslim Corsairs**

Reading: Little, "The Scourge from the North," pp.  
71-86; "Of Faith, Galleys, and Greed," pp.  
111-131.





**EXAM #1** - 03 February

**WEEK FIVE: 10 February**

**Elizabethan Seadogs**

Reading:

Little, “Spanish Galleons and Portuguese Carracks,” pp. 133-151.

**READING WEEK: February 15 – 19**

**No Classes!**

**WEEK SIX: 24 February**

**Piracy’s “Golden Age”**

Reading:

Little, “Of Blind Eyes and Opportunity,” pp. 153-168; “The Real Pirates of the Caribbean,” pp. 169-200.

Marcus Rediker, “Under the Banner of King Death?: The Social World of Anglo-American Pirates, 1716 to 1726,” *The William and Mary Quarterly*. Vol. 38, No. 2 (Apr. 1981), pp. 203-227. [OWL SAKAI]



**WEEK SEVEN: 02 March**

**The Female Pirate**

Reading:

Marcus Rediker, “Liberty beneath the Jolly Lives of

Roger: The Anne Bonny and

Pennell, ed., *Bandits at*

Mary Read, Pirates,” in C.R. *Sea: A*

*Pirates Reader* (New York,

2001), pp. 299-320.

[OWL SAKAI]

Charles Johnson, Chapter VII: "The Lives of Mary Read and Anne Bonny," *A general history of the robberies and murders of the most notorious pyrates...* (London, 1724), pp. 118-134.

[WESTERN LIBRARIES ONLINE]

**EXAM #2** - 09 March

**WEEK EIGHT:** 16 March

**Captain Kidd & Pirates of Atlantic Canada**

Reading:

Harold Horwood, "David Kirke and the Band of Brothers," *Plunder & Pillage: Atlantic Canada's Brutal & Bloodthirsty Pirates & Privateers* (Halifax, 2011), pp. 45-58.

[WELDON 2-HR RESERVE]



Podcast: Dan Conlin, Curator of Marine History, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax, N.S.

<http://www.canadashistory.ca/Magazine/Online-Extension/Articles/Pirates> (10:06)

"Pirates and Privateers," CBC's Land & Sea, 26 August 2012 (21:49)

<http://www.cbc.ca/landandsea/2012/08/pirates-and-privateers.html>



**WEEK NINE:** 23 March

**Rovers of the Barbary Coast**

Coast

Reading: Little, "From the Mediterranean to the North

Sea," pp. 201- 220.

**WEEK TEN: 30 March**

**Pirates in Chinese and Southeast Asian Waters**

Reading: Little, "Pirates, Rebels, and Warriors," pp. 235-250.

Robert J. Antony, "Turbulent Waters: Sea Raiding in Early Modern South East Asia," *The Mariner's Mirror*. Vol. 99, No. 1 (Feb. 2013), pp. 23-38. [OWL SAKAI]



**WEEK ELEVEN: 06 April**

**Modern Pirates & Piracy in Popular Culture**

Reading: Little, "Ships, SEALS, and Satellites," pp. 269-286.

Max Boot, "Pirates, Then and Now: How Piracy Was Defeated in the Past and Can Be Again," *Foreign Affairs* 88, No. 4 (2009), pp. 94-107. [OWL SAKAI]

Howard Pyle, Chapter I: "Buccaneers and Marooners of the Spanish Main," *Pyle's Book of Pirates: Fact, Fiction and*

*Howard Fancy...* (New York, 1921).

[WESTERN LIBRARIES ONLINE]

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

### **Academic Offences:**

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and



indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

## **Medical Issues:**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](mailto:MentalHealth@Western), <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Morgan Sheriff, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84999 or [msherif5@uwo.ca](mailto:msherif5@uwo.ca)