



The University of Western Ontario  
**HISTORY 2188A**  
*Pirates & Piracy*  
*on the World's Seas and in the Public Imagination*  
Fall 2018  
Wednesdays, 10:30am – 12:30pm, FNB 1240

**Instructor: Professor Mike Dove**

Office Hours: 12pm – 2pm  
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 1207  
Email: mdove2@uwo.ca

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*Image: Skull & Crossbones*

**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:**

[Please note that this is a draft syllabus. The final version, including a list of all reading assignments, will be available on the OWL-Sakai course website prior to the beginning of classes.]

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 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.

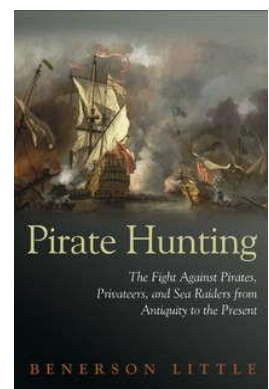
Students will be expected to attend all classes, complete the weekly readings, and write two term exams and a final exam. Electronic devices may be used in class for the taking of notes. To encourage civility and respect for one another in the classroom, the recreational use of lap-tops (ie. web browsing, 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 Materials:

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.

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

Additional required readings are accessible via the OWL-Sakai course website or online links as provided in the course syllabus. Those available through Western Libraries Online will require you to login using your UWO username and password.



### Methods of Evaluation:

Exam #1	03 October 2018 – In Class	25%
Exam #2	07 November 2018 – In Class	25%
Final Exam	Written during Fall Term Examination Period	50%

Requests for make-up exams in this course will only be granted for documented medical reasons or family emergencies. If documentation is required for either illness or non-illness academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. If it is warranted, then the instructor will be notified and the student and the instructor will arrange a make-up exam date. Please refer to the following website for more information about Western's Policy Accommodation for Illness:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

### **Tentative Course Schedule and Textbook 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 classes.]

#### **SEPTEMBER**

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|--|----------------------------------|
| 12 – Pirates & Piracy: An Introduction | Little, pp. 1-15.                |
| 19 – Sea Robbers of Antiquity          | Little, pp. 17-33; 35-45; 47-69. |
| 26 – Viking Invaders & Muslim Corsairs | Little, pp. 71-86; 111-131.      |

#### **OCTOBER**

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 03 – Exam #1                            |                               |
| 10 – NO CLASS: FALL READING WEEK!       |                               |
| 17 – Elizabethan Seadogs                | Little, pp. 133-151.          |
| 24 – Blackbeard & Piracy's 'Golden Age' | Little, pp. 153-168; 169-200. |
| 31 – Female Pirates                     |                               |

#### **NOVEMBER**

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|--|----------------------|
| 07 – Exam #2                                 |                      |
| 14 – Pirates & Privateers of Atlantic Canada |                      |
| 21 – Rovers of the Barbary Coast             | Little, pp. 201-220. |
| 28 – Sea Bandits of China and SE Asia        | Little, pp. 235-250. |

#### **DECEMBER**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 05 – Modern Piracy & Pirates in Popular Culture | Little, pp. 269-286. |
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## **Additional Statements**

### ***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)

### ***Accessibility Options:***

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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***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 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.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### ***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.

### ***Scholastic Offences***

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[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)

### ***Support Services***

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### ***Use of Electronic Devices***

No electronic devices will be permitted during examinations unless formally arranged through Accommodated Exams.

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, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail [vangalen@uwo.ca](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca).