

HIST 3630: PIRATES AND PIRACY IN GLOBAL HISTORY

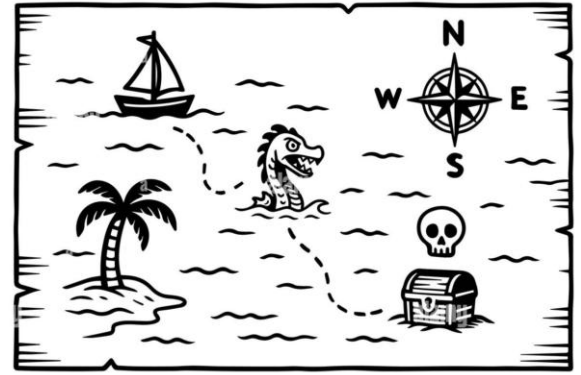
Summer 2026

Thursdays 10:30-11:20 AM (Lectures will also be recorded and can be viewed asynchronously)



Zoom consultations anytime, by request

TAS: [Redacted]
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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION [0.50 credit]

This course will examine the nature and historical experience of piracy and other crimes on the high seas through an examination of real-life events, literature, pop culture, film, and music (sea shanties). Topics will vary depending on instructor expertise and may include piracy in ancient Greece and Rome, pirates of the Caribbean, piracy and global commerce, the science of piracy, pirates in Canadian waters, China's Red Fleet and the Pirate Queen, the American Revolution and the Barbary Pirates, piracy and the birth of international law, pirates and pop culture.

COURSE OUTCOMES

If a student successfully puts forth the time and effort required, the learning outcomes achieved in this course will be:

- 1) Knowledge of the major people, events, ideas, and patterns in the global history of pirates and piracy
- 2) The ability to evaluate and understand primary sources and place them into context.
- 3) Awareness of the lives and experiences of people different from us in place and time, which contributes to one's ability to be an informed global citizen today.
- 4) Improvement in the sophistication of your oral and written communication skills.
- 5) Exposure to the discipline of history and the ability to use its research methods, including practice in identifying information that is genuine and accurate.

ASSESSMENTS

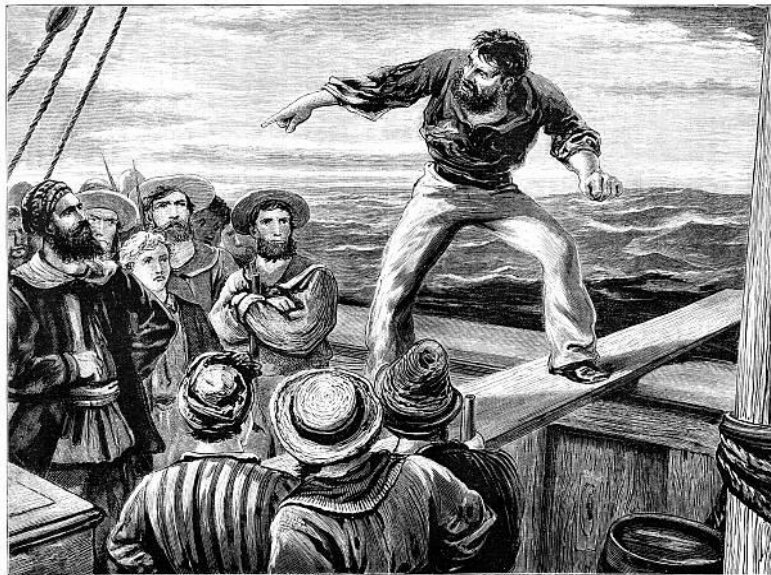
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| Completion of worksheets for two scholarly articles | 10% |
| Weekly Reading Quizzes (5% each; best 7 of 11 will count) | 35% |
| Research Essay, or Unessay Project | 40% |
| Final Exam | 15% |

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

J. Wadsworth ed., *Global Piracy: A Documentary History of Seaborne Banditry* [\$55.50]

Selected articles of your choice in OMNI and library databases

Short documentary films, full-length feature films, popular culture media of your choice



A DYING MAN'S THREAT.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Week 1 May 7-13 – Introduction: corsairs, buccaneers, pirates, letters of marque

Read: Wadsworth, *Global Piracy*, pp. 1-14

Watch: A pirate themed film of your own choice

Take: Quiz #1

Week 2 May 14-20 – Piracy in the Ancient World

Read: Wadsworth, *Global Piracy*, pp. 15-29

Watch: “When Rome went to War against Pirates of the Mediterranean” (12 mins)

Take: Quiz #2

Week 3 May 21-27 – Sir Francis Drake, Elizabethan Piracy, Maritime Innovations in Science & Technology

Read: Wadsworth, *Global Piracy*, pp. 45-68

Watch: “Francis Drake: World's Most Controversial Pirate” (44 mins) or “The Galleon: Floating Fortress” on piracy and shipbuilding technology (24 mins) or “Grace O'Malley, Pirate Queen of Ireland” (44 mins)

Take: Quiz #3

Week 4 May 28-June 3 – Piracy and the Rise of Global Commerce: East India Company, India, Philippines, Sumatra, Africa, Brazil

Read: Wadsworth, *Global Piracy*, pp. 83-98

Watch: “Legends of the Indian Ocean: Dutch Piracy” (18 mins) OR

“The Story of the Most Infamous Pirate in History: Henry Every” steals the Mughal Empire” (63 mins)

Take: Quiz #4

Submit: Two article worksheets in Dropbox by end of week 4 (June 5 at 9 pm)

Week 5 June 4-10 – Pirates of the Caribbean: Race, Gender, Class, the Pirates’ Code – Blackbeard, Anne Bonny, Mary Read

Read: Wadsworth, *Global Piracy*, pp. 99-116, 155-175

Watch: “The Golden Age of Piracy: The Legendary Pirates Of The 18th Century” (59 mins) or “Port Royal, Jamaica: The Rise and Fall of the Most Sinful City on Earth” (43 mins) or “Queen Anne’s Revenge – The Floating Fortress That Made Blackbeard Unstoppable” (43 mins) or “The Two Most Feared & Deadliest Female Pirates to Ever Exist: Anne Bonny and Mary Read” (24 mins)

Take: Quiz #5

Week 6 June 11-17 – Pirates in Canadian Waters: Bartholomew “Black Bart” Roberts, Eric Cobham, Eric Low, Maria Lindsay, Newfoundland Cod Fisheries

Read: Dan Conlin, “The Golden Age of Piracy in Nova Scotia: Three Case Studies 1720-1724,” *Journal of the Nova Scotia Historical Society* 12 (209): 82-105

Watch: “Canada’s Pirate Legends: Rise of Piracy in Canada” (Parts I & II, 30 mins) OR “When Pirates Ruled Canada’s East Coast” (14 mins)

Take: Quiz #6

Week 7 June 18-24 – Guest Speaker: Dr Jamie Goodall, US Army College, will talk to us about “Pirates of the Chesapeake Bay” and will take your questions.

Dr Goodall is the author of four books:

The Daring Exploits of Black Sam Bellamy: Cape Cod to the Caribbean (2023)

Pirates and Privateers from Long Island Sound to Delaware Bay (2022)

Pirates: Shipwrecks, Conquests, and their Lasting Legacy (2021)

Pirates of the Chesapeake Bay: From the Colonial Era to the Oyster Wars (2020)

She also cosplays at the Maryland and Virginia Renaissance Festivals dressed as her alter ego: Torienne, Ship’s Scholar of the crew Mare Nostrum.

Website: <https://jamielogoodall.com/>

Take: Quiz #7

Week 8 June 25-July 1 – Piracy in Imperial China: Zheng Yi Sao, China’s Pirate Queen and Guangdong Pirate Confederation/ Red Fleet

Read: Wadsworth, *Global Piracy*, pp. 69-81, 177-200

Watch: “Ching Shih: Pirate Widow Menace of the South China Sea” (22 mins) or “The Most Powerful Pirate in History was a Chinese Woman” (18 mins) or “The Most Successful Pirate in History” (BBC; 4 minutes) and “The Obscure History of the Japanese Sea Lords” (PBS; 9 minutes)

Take: Quiz #8

Week 9 July 2-July 8 – Thomas Jefferson, the Early Republic, and the Barbary Pirates

Read: Wadsworth, *Global Piracy*, pp. 135-154

Watch: “The King of Pirates, Hayreddin Barbarossa” (9 minutes) and “That Time the US Paid a \$642,500 Ransom to Pirates” (9 mins) OR “Enslaved Icelander Describes Horror of Barbary Pirate Raid (1627): The Diary of Ólafur Egilsson”

Take: Quiz #9

Week 10 July 9-July 15 – Piracy, the Atlantic Slave Trade, and the Origins of International Maritime Law and Human Rights

Take: Quiz #10

Week 11 July 16-22 – Sea Shanties: Piracy, Shipboard Labour, and Songs of the Sea

Listen: To one of the albums: *Rogue's Gallery: Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs, and Chanteys* OR *Son of Rogue's Gallery: Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs, and Chanteys*

Submit: Essay or Unessay in Dropbox by Friday, July 24 at 9 pm

Week 12 July 23-29 – Pirates in Popular Culture: The Page, Stage, Screen, and Spotify

Read: One article of your choice from those posted in the Courselink module

Watch, View, Play or Experience: A pirate-themed pop culture item chosen from the list posted in CourseLink

Take: Quiz #11

FINAL DUE DATE: Last date to submit Essay or Unessay is Wed., July 29, 9 pm

** Final exam due in Dropbox by Wednesday, August 5, at 9 pm – it will be available starting Wednesday, July 9 at 11:30 AM, when the last class sessions ends.



ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

** NOTE: The descriptions below outline the minimum requirements. Meeting these requirements alone does not necessarily constitute "A" level work. It means you have met the minimum requirements.

Assignments can be done using any of the major citation styles, as long as they are done correctly, consistently, with attention to accuracy and detail. There is an excellent online resource to all the major academic citation styles available online at the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL).

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE MAJOR RESEARCH ESSAY OPTION:

Absolutely no use of GenAI, in any form, is permitted for this assignment at all

Length is 10-12 pages (4500-5000 words), including footnotes but not bibliography

Must be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

Do not double space between paragraphs. Use 5-space indentations to indicate start of a new paragraph, like published books and articles use.

Make sure that pages are numbered. Cover page does not count.

Include a bibliography that lists all sources consulted in alphabetical order.

Citations done correctly according to the appropriate style guide (Chicago, APA, MLA)

Must include specific page numbers from the book/ article in your citations

Based on at least 10 academic sources, including both books and journal articles.

Reference materials (encyclopedias etc), textbooks, and class notes are not suitable academic research sources.

You are encouraged to use primary source research at the 3000-level but are not required to do so.

Your essay should also have a thesis and be supported by specific and persuasive evidence. You can arrive at a thesis by first asking yourself a "research question" then conducting research to answer the question. After considering your evidence, thinking about what you have read, your answer then becomes your argument/thesis. Please see me if you want any help defining a topic or locating sources.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE "UNESSAY" OPTION

Make or create a project related to the culture and history of pirates, pirate ships or their landlubber context. An assignment sheet with starter ideas is available in CourseLink in the "Assignments" module. You are welcome to use one of those ideas or to come up with your own unessay project. As always, I am available for consultations via email, zoom or phone call.

Spend roughly 20 hours on research and creation

Inform your work with at least 5 academic books and articles

Provide a three (3)-page explanation of your unessay project and how it was informed by the research you did. Be sure to include a bibliography

WEEKLY READING QUIZZES

The quiz function will be used to give you a chance to reflect on the primary source reading and to have interaction with me and the course GTAs. I have adapted the questions found in each chapter of the textbook and will use them as the basis for the quiz. You can find the questions listed separately in each week's module as well to make your preparation easier. Some weeks I will ask for your thoughts or impressions instead.

The best seven (7) of eleven (11) quiz marks will count toward the final grade. You can write all eleven quizzes, or you can choose to write fewer of them and take zeros on others. Only six will transfer over to make up the final total. I have structured it this way intentionally to give you flexibility during your summer weeks. Please note that each week's quiz will close when the next week's topic starts and will not be reopened.

When assessing the quizzes, we will be looking for answers that include specific details from the primary source reading, the weekly lecture notes and the assigned films. Specificity always adds authority so practice incorporating names, dates, events, actions etc. You do not need to use citations for these quizzes.

ARTICLE WORKSHEET

Find two high-quality academic articles related to pirates, piracy, corsairs, buccaneering, port cities or a specific pirate using the OMNI database system and complete an article work sheet for each one. The worksheet is posted in the assignment section of CourseLink.



MY COURSE POLICIES

NO USE OF AI TOOLS AT ALL

For this course, you may not use ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, DeepSeek, Gemini, Grok, Grammarly, or any other form of "generative AI" or "agentic AI" or technology that will write, organize or generate ideas and/or outlines and complete assignments for you. This is a completely AI-free course. Our collective goal is to improve and grow and write and think. I want to engage with your ideas, not those of a machine!

TURNITIN

I do not use Turnitin for this course or for any others. I assume you are here to learn and are doing the work for your own assignments, in good faith. I do not want you to feel any undue pressure from accusations by software programs. You are just learning how things work and honest mistakes are part of the learning process. I also object to your intellectual property being gobbled up by that company and made part of their database without your consent or compensation. So, no Turnitin for us this semester.

LATE PENALTIES

If you are struggling with time management or writing trouble, don't worry. There are no late penalties this semester. Talk to me! I want to help and support you.

REWEIGHTING OF COURSE COMPONENT GRADES

The value of the various components for this course will not be re-weighted, except in very exceptional cases of unavoidable emergency. Each component of the course is designed to contribute to and assess different aspects of the course's learning objectives, and you are expected to complete all of them.

MANDATORY UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community - faculty, staff, and students - to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

RECORDING OF MATERIALS

Presentations that are made in relation to course work – including lectures – cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer.

Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted. Unauthorized distribution of someone's intellectual property (IP) is illegal. Do not sell, give, or post my course materials to Chegg, YouTube, Discord, Insta, TikTok or any other entity or site. (I recognize the irony of this policy for a course on the history of piracy).

WHEN YOU CANNOT MEET A COURSE REQUIREMENT

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

ACCESSIBILITY

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website.

ACCOMMODATION OF RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements. See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations.

COPIES OF OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

DROP DATE

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness. If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental well-being resources. The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

ILLNESS

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

OTHER RESOURCES

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.



(Panel from the famous Japanese pirate manga “One Piece”)