

QUEST I "The History of Pirates"  
Explore Course, Society, 3 credits  
Class meets MWF 10:20-11:20  
Class meets in Clow 221  
UW Oshkosh, Fall 2017

Professor Kuhl, kuhl@uwosh.edu  
Office: Sage 3626  
Office hours: Mon/Weds 3:30-4:30  
Peer Mentor: Nick Lilla, lillan23@uwosh.edu

## University Studies Program (USP) Signature Question: How do people understand and engage in community life?

We will investigate this signature question through Pirate History.

Why did pirates reject the community of their birth?

What kind of new community did sailors create on pirate ships?

Why have people been fascinated with pirates throughout the ages,  
and what does that tell us about how people understand community?

### REQUIRED READING

Available at the Campus Bookstore and on Library 2 hr Reserve

- Colin Woodard *The Republic of Pirates: Being the True and Surprising Story of the Caribbean Pirates and the Man Who Brought Them Down* (Orlando, Florida: Harcourt Books, 2007).
- Adrian Tinniswood *Pirates of Barbary: Corsairs, Conquests, and Captivity in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Mediterranean* (NY: Riverhead Books, 2010).
- Course Packet
- Multiple Readings on D2L and Online

GRADING Course grades will be determined as follows:

- Class Participation 10%
- Two early exams, 10% each
- Final Exam 20%
- First year experience 20%
- Group Presentation 10%
- Homework Exercises 20%

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Students are expected to attend class. See attendance policy for more details.
- Students should complete the day's required reading, and come to class with books and notes prepared to discuss the reading.
- Three exams
- Multiple homework exercises
- Group activities
- In class activities

**\*\*All items on syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor\*\***

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1

Weds. Sept. 6

Fri. Sept. 8

### What is a Liberal Arts Education?

Introduction to the class

Assignment Due: "Comparative General Education"

Reading: William Cronon "Only Connect" at

[http://www.williamcronon.net/writing/cronon\\_only\\_connect.pdf](http://www.williamcronon.net/writing/cronon_only_connect.pdf)

Lecture: "Ancient World Piracy"

### Unit 1 Pirates in the Mediterranean World

### Week 2

Mon. Sept. 11

Weds. Sept. 13

Fri. Sept. 15

Lecture: "The Rise of Barbary Pirates"

Assignment Due: Reflection on Personal Qualities

Reading: Tinniswood ch. 2-3

Assignment Due: Pirate Case Study—John Ward

Excursion with Peer Mentor

### Week 3

Mon. Sept. 18

Weds. Sept. 20

Fri. Sept. 22

Reading: Tinniswood ch. 6 and 7

MEET IN POLK LIBRARY LOBBY

Assignment Due: Anti-Pirate Case Study—Sir Robert Mansell

Scavenger Hunt

### Week 4

Mon. Sept. 25

Weds. Sept. 27

Fri. Sept. 29

Reading: Tinniswood ch. 8, 9, 11

MEET IN POLK LIBRARY LOBBY

Assignment Due: Anti-Pirate Case Study

Scavenger Hunt

### Week 5

Mon. Oct. 2

Weds. Oct. 4

Fri. Oct. 6

Lecture: "The End of the Barbary Pirates"

Due: Pirate Academy

Exam 1 Multiple Choice. Please bring #2 pencils.

Exam 1 Essay Building Blocks. Please bring ink pens and blue books.

### Unit 2 Caribbean Pirates

### Week 6

Mon. Oct. 9

Weds. Oct. 11

Fri. Oct. 13

Reading: Woodard prologue-Ch.2

Reading: Woodard ch. 3-4

Due: Notes on Woodard

### Week 7

Mon. Oct. 16

Weds. Oct. 18

Fri. Oct. 20

Reading: Woodard ch. 5-6

Reading: Woodard ch.7-8

Due: Notes on Woodard

SCAVENGER HUNTS due by Midnight in D2L dropbox

### Week 8

Mon. Oct. 23

Weds. Oct. 25

Fri. Oct. 27

Reading: Woodard ch.9-10

Reading: Finish Woodard

Assignment Due: Caribbean Case Study

Discussion

**Week 9**

Mon. Oct. 30  
Weds. Nov. 1  
Fri. Nov. 3

Review

Exam 2 Multiple Choice. Please bring #2 pencils.

Exam 2 Essay Building Blocks. Please bring ink pens and blue books.

**Unit 3 Pirates, Imagination, and Memory****Week 10**

Mon. Nov. 6  
Weds. Nov. 8  
Fri. Nov. 10

Reading: excerpts from *The Decameron*

Reading: excerpts from *The Black Avenger of the Spanish Main*

Reading: ch. 12-14 "The Young Pirates" from *Tom Sawyer* at

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/74/74-h/74-h.htm>

**Week 11**

Mon. Nov. 13  
Weds. Nov. 15  
Fri. Nov. 17

Reading: Part VI "Captain Silver" from *Treasure Island*

Assignment Due: Literary Case Study – Tom Sawyer or Long John Silver

Discussion

**Week 12**

Mon. Nov. 20  
  
Weds. Nov. 22

Meet in Polk Library 202. Check out a laptop from the library circulation desk, bring your group project resources, and be ready to research.

Thanksgiving Break

**Week 13**

Mon. Nov. 27  
Weds. Nov. 29  
Fri. Dec. 1

Group Presentation discussion

Movie Day! Meet in Sage 1210 at 6:30pm for *Captain Blood*

Assignment Due: Cinematic Case Study. Choose a pirate or an anti-pirate from the movie and use them for the case study.

**Week 14**

Mon. Dec. 4  
Weds. Dec. 6  
Fri. Dec. 8

Group Presentations

Group Presentations

Assignment Due: Self-Reflection Case Study. Use yourself as the case study.

As you, the real you, move through the world, do you feel more like a pirate, or an anti-pirate? Use the appropriate question set, and consider your connections to your community and so on.

**Week 15**

Mon. Dec. 11  
Weds. Dec. 13  
Fri. Dec. 15

Final Reflections

Final Exam: bring #2 pencils

Final Exam: bring ink pens and blue books

## WHAT DOES A PIRATE COURSE HAVE TO DO WITH A GOOD EDUCATION?

This pirate history course was intentionally created as part of the liberal arts education here at UW Oshkosh (UWO) known as the University Studies Program (USP). A liberal arts program aims to produce educated people, not just people trained to do one sort of task. This history course can help you become well-educated in two ways. **One**, it can provide you with a basis of knowledge about how people rejected the worlds they were born into and created new ones. For example, 18<sup>th</sup> century Caribbean pirates challenged the brutal working conditions on British merchant and naval ships and established communities with more egalitarian ways of sharing power and resources. That sort of knowledge is timely, and will help you better understand how even a wealthy and powerful empire had to respond to challenges from the poor and lowly. **The second way** this course will further your education is by honing critical thinking skills. Making sense of history involves looking for patterns, learning to read and interpret documents, imagining a different sort of world, and thinking about the choices people have made. If you were a sailor and pirates boarded your ship, would you fight them to the death? Or would you mutiny against an abusive captain and fly the Jolly Roger? Those critical thinking skills are timeless, and will serve you well in whatever career you choose.

## WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY STUDIES PROGRAM?

Every four year college in the country has some form of General Education. Here at UWO we have the USP. This Quest I course is the first in a series of courses you will take to introduce you to the campus and all it has to offer, the Oshkosh community, and the challenges and opportunities of academic life. In these courses, you'll be exposed to three "Signature Questions:"

- How do people understand and engage in community life?
- How do people understand and create a more sustainable world?
- How do people understand and bridge cultural differences?

The Quest classes are designed to provide a solid foundation for the rest of your education here, no matter which major you choose. For further information about the unique general education at UW Oshkosh, visit the University Studies Program website <http://www.uwosh.edu/usp/>

## USP SIGNATURE QUESTION: HOW DO PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY LIFE?

Civic knowledge consists of an awareness and understanding of the various political and social processes that impact the nature and quality of life in local, state, national, or global communities. It also encompasses the cultivation of skills which may be useful in public life, like effective communication and ethical reasoning. Civic engagement means having an appreciation for and applying the values gained from civic knowledge in real world settings, directed at improving the quality of life in the communities of which one is a part. Civic knowledge and civic engagement emphasize learning, reflection, and action in order to create better communities.

This Quest I course addresses the signature question "how do people understand and engage in community life?" by studying the history of pirates. Pirates were simultaneously outsiders who defied the laws and social norms of their time and innovators who built new kinds of communities based on their own ethics. We will first look at Mediterranean pirates and examine their complicated allegiances. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century many people portrayed the struggle between European trade and Northern African pirates as a religious crusade between Christianity and Islam, but many Mediterranean pirates had European origins. Next we will examine pirates in the Caribbean, and consider how they built a community that welcomed runaway slaves, women, and deserting soldiers, and governed themselves with a crude form of democracy. In the last weeks of the course we'll look at pirates in the imagination. How are pirates remembered? What fantasies do people have about pirates? How do imaginary pirates compare with the real, historical ones?

## COURSE OUTCOMES

After taking this course, you will have acquired the following learning outcomes:

- Awareness of ways one's identity is connected to inherited and self-chosen communities.
- Capacity to describe comparative civic traditions expressed within and by different cultural groups.
- Familiarity with key historical struggles, campaigns, and social movements to achieve the full promise of democracy.
- Development of a civic imagination.

## PEER MENTOR

Each Quest One course has a Peer Mentor, an upper class student who can help you navigate your way through the rocky shoals of your first semester in college. Your Peer Mentor is Nick Lilla [lillan23@uwosh.edu](mailto:lillan23@uwosh.edu). You will need to meet with Nick and work with him on how to navigate the Scavenger Hunt and other aspects of the course. Feel free to ask him questions about how to succeed at UW Oshkosh.

PIRATES HAD TO LEARN TO TIE KNOTS AND SEW SAILS TO SURVIVE AT SEA. YOU HAVE TO LEARN THE FOLLOWING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE.

### Early Alert Grading

Early Alert is a program that provides you with an Early Grade Report from faculty that will indicate if you have academic performance or attendance issues. You will receive an email during the 5<sup>th</sup> week of classes that will let you know whether you are shipshape or about to walk the plank.

### ePortfolio

As you move through your courses at UW Oshkosh, you will archive your learning in an ePortfolio, found in D2L. The ePortfolio will help you keep track of papers, speeches, reports, projects, and other assignments. Your peer mentor can assist you with getting your UW Oshkosh ePortfolio started.

## CREATING YOUR OWN PIRATE COMMUNITIES

This class must divide into pirate communities. Each pirate group will have a series of assignments to complete. You must develop a set of rules governing yourselves and create a plan of action to accomplish your goals.

- Each pirate community must complete a scavenger hunt to learn about the university and larger town.
- Each pirate community must meet with the peer mentor at least twice during the semester.
- Each pirate community must meet with the professor at least twice during the semester.
- Each pirate community must choose a theme related to piracy and make a group presentation to the class that presents their research and analysis of their topic and put their topic in historical context.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is essential for learning. Only the following four reasons and documents will be accepted:

1. Medical illness. A Doctor's note testifying to the date and seriousness of incident.
2. Family death. I must receive: the name of the deceased, the name of the funeral parlor, and your parent's address so that I may send condolences.
3. Religious holiday. You must have a note by Week Two with all the dates of conflict in the semester.
4. University related event such as soccer game, debate tournament, etc. Bring in the schedule at the beginning of the semester.

- Please note that **any responsibilities related to an outside job do not count as an excuse for missing class**. School cannot work around your job, but many jobs can work around school.

- I do not allow make-up quizzes or tests for unexcused absences.

- Four or more unexcused absences constitutes automatic failure in the course. If you have five or more absences for health reasons, you need to take a medical withdraw from the course.

**ELECTRONIC POLICY:** Like many professors at top universities and law schools, I prioritize human connection and discussion in class. Therefore, I do not want the distraction of personal electronic devices. Please bring me documentation if you have a disability that requires the use of a laptop or other device for assistance. Otherwise, no electronics are permitted in class.

#### **OFFICE VISITS**

Professor Kuhl holds office hours in Sage 3626 every Mon/Wed 3:30-4:30 and by appointment. Please feel free to drop by to ask questions about the readings, clarify points from lecture, challenge my interpretation of history, or hold other sorts of intellectual conversations.

#### **D2L RESOURCES**

I maintain a D2L site for this course that offers many resources for students.

#### **POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University; policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For more information on the UW Oshkosh policy see <http://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/university-policies-procedures/academic-misconduct>