



“To Death”

A Standard of Captain Bartholomew “Black Bart” Roberts

ARRRchaeology of Caribbean Piracy

ANT 3177

(3 credits)

Instructor:	Dr. Pete T. Sinelli
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Teaching Assistants and their office hours	Will be announced the first week of class
Classroom	ENG2 0102
Class Hours:	Section 0001 Monday and Wednesday 4:30-5:45
Office Hours:	M/W 3:15-4:15 PM T/Th 10:30-11:45 AM

Course Description: This course explores the profession of piracy and the careers of individual pirates from an archaeological perspective. The course will focus on piracy in the Caribbean from the 16th through the 19th centuries, with some discussion of piracy in other eras and locales. We begin with a brief review of the geography, natural history, and human prehistory of the circum-Caribbean region. Next we examine the “business” of piracy, reviewing archaeological evidence from its early beginnings as tools of European statecraft to its establishment as a bonafide, if illegal, profession by the late 17th century. The third section delves into the lives and careers of some of the most notorious pirates and pirate havens, relying upon the archaeological evidence to separate fact from fiction. The course concludes with a synthesis of what a pirate’s life was really like, based on the excavated evidence, and contrasts this reality with pop culture’s concept.

Course Goals:

- Provide an overview of the circum-Caribbean region to provide context for the discussion of piratical endeavors.

- Discuss evidence related to the origins of New World piracy and its evolution into an established profession.
- Explore the archaeological record of pirate ships, havens, and hideouts for insight into the daily lives of these individuals.
- Contrast the reality of “the pirate life” with the romanticized Hollywood version.

Prerequisites: None

Required Texts:

1. *X Marks the Spot: The Archaeology of Piracy*, by Russell K. Skowronek (Editor) and Charles Robin Ewen (Editor). ISBN-10: 081303079X
2. *The Archaeology of the Caribbean* by Samuel M. Wilson. ISBN-10: 0521626226
3. *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates*, by David Cordingly. ISBN-10: 081297722X
4. *The History of Pirates*, by Angus Konstam. ISBN-10: 1585745162
5. Additional articles and readings will be assigned throughout the semester.

Course Evaluation:

Students’ grades will be based out of 400 total points. Grades can be calculated by dividing the total number of points earned by 400. Grades for every assignment will be posted online.

1 Caribbean Geography Quiz – 25 points

This quiz will be administered the second week of class to ensure that every student knows what the professor is talking about when he mentions an island, country, port, bay, etc.

3 exams – 300 points (100 each)

Exams will consist of multiple choice/ True-false questions. You will need RED scantrons to take them.

3 Case Reports - 75 points (25 each)

You will write three brief reports (3 to 4 double spaced pages) on topics I assign in class. These will focus on real and/or simulated scenarios. Some essays will be analytical, others more “opinion” oriented. These are designed to help develop your ability to assimilate and interpret archaeological facts and discuss them in a coherent manner.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(The professor reserves the right to make reasonable modifications if necessary.)

Readings will be assigned at the end of each class. You will be responsible for completing these readings in advance of the next session.

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS AND EVENTS
	PART I: THE PREHISTORIC CARIBBEAN	
1	1. Course introduction and overview 2. Caribbean geography, geology, and biogeography	M 8/23: Assign Caribbean geography

2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Indian Archaeological Concepts 2. Early Caribbean prehistory—the Lithic age through the Ceramic age 	W 9/1: Caribbean geography quiz
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Caribbean in 1491 2. Columbus and the first European settlements (1492-1515) 	
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European colonialism in the 16th century 2. Movie—1492 and Exam 1 	M 9/13: Assign Case Report 1 W 9/15: Exam 1
	PART II: SHIPS AND SHIPMATES	
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kinds of ships 2. Propulsion and navigation 3. Personal effects, sundries &tc. 4. Weaponry 	W 9/22: Case Report 1 Due
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weaponry Display 2. Movies: Combat at Sea 3. What happens when a ship sinks? 	M 9/27: FIELD TRIP!
7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Underwater archaeological methods 2. Conservation Methods, Laws, and Ethics 3. Movie: Recovering Captain Kidd's ship 	
8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pirate stereotypes and Hollywood inspired myths 2. Reality: pirates as ordinary sailors 3. Pirate “principles”: the organizational structure of a pirate ship 4. “Yo ho ho, and a bottle of rum”: pirate subsistence and health 5. Piracy, sex, and gender 	Movie: POTC Chalk Talk: Hollywood Pirates are...
9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What would a “pirate wreck” look like? 2. Exam 2 	M 10/18: Assign Case Report 2 W 10/20: Exam 2
	PART III: THE ECONOMICS AND POLITICS OF NEW WORLD PIRACY	
10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunity knocks: New Spain and the Spanish Main 2. The Corsairs—Francis Drake, Henry Morgan, and piracy as a tool of statecraft 3. The era of the privateer 	W 10/27: Case Report 2 due!
11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Boucaniers—rebels <u>with</u> a cause 5. The rise of piracy as an occupation 6. Corsairs, privateers, buccaneers, and pirates: what's the difference? 	
12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pirate lairs: Providence Island, Honduras; Port Royal, Jamaica; Tortuga, Haiti,; New Providence, Bahamas; and St. Mary's Island, Madagascar 	

	PART IV: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	
13	1. Discuss various blackguards, villains, cutthroats, and other <i>Hostis humani generis</i>	
14	1. Edward “Blackbeard” Teach and the Archaeology of the Beaufort Island Wreck “Queen Anne’s Revenge” 2. THANKSGIVING!	M 11/22: Assign Case Report 3 FEAST LIKE A DRUNKEN PIRATE!
15	1. Bartholomew “Black Bart” Roberts—the most successful pirate in history 2. “Black Sam” Bellamy and the archaeology of the wreck of the “Whydah” 3. Discuss more scurvy dog <i>hostis humani generis</i> as time permits	W 12/1: Case Report 3 due!
16	1. “A pirate’s life for me?” Final thoughts on the reality of life during the Golden Age of Piracy 2. Final Exam—TBA	

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION:

- Late registration, Add/Drop: August 23-27
- Withdrawal deadline for this course: October 15