Anthropology 114
Anthropology of Pirates & Piracy
Jonathan Turbin

CRN 26920
Office: Condon 366D
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 3-4 pm

Overview:
Description: Piracy has been part of human commerce probably as long as humans have traversed the seas for trade. This course examines the social, political, and economic aspects of piracy in human history with a special emphasis on the Americas. We ask such questions as: What was the structure of democracy on a pirate ship? What about women? What is the difference between a pirate and a privateer? What is pirate code and did it ever exist? What was daily life like for pirates? Who became pirates and who didn't? What role has contemporary popular culture played in the depiction of pirates and their enduring appeal? We also investigate modern piracy and the use of the term in contemporary life and culture.

Book:

The book and course articles are online at the Blackboard site.

Contacting Me: I can be contacted through email at jgt@uoregon.edu. Please address all correspondence with a subject line that includes the class number and some clue as to what the email is about. Please address me as Jonathan. Do not start with ‘hey’ or ‘dude.’ I thank you in advance.

Canvas:
Anthropology 114 is a “Canvas course,” which means we have an on-line site in which the syllabus, announcements, assignments, outlines of lectures, grades, etc will be posted (your grades are only available to you; no one else sees them). You have been automatically entered as a Canvas user for 114. It is important for you to familiarize yourself with Canvas (which can be accessed from the UO homepage).
**Requirements**

**Weekly Discussions: 20 Points (2 points weekly)**

**Two Quizzes: 10 Points (5 points each)**

**Midterm Short Essay: 35 Points**

**Final Exam Short Essay: 35 Points**

**Weekly Discussion:** Discussion will take place on Canvas. You will receive weekly prompts with a discussion question or topic. Interactions with your fellow students (responses, polite debate, etc) is encouraged. It will be worth 20% of your final grade.

**Mid Term Exam:** The midterm exam will cover the first 5 weeks of course material. It will be worth 35% of your final grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will cover the remaining 5 weeks of the class and will be worth 35% of your grade.

**Summary of Due Dates:**
Midterm Exam: Week 5
Final Exam: Exam Week (TBA)
Discussion posts weekly.
Classroom Standards:
There are some basic standards that students are expected to follow. These are intended to help create a comfortable environment for all students as free of distractions as possible.

1. Arrive on time and leave at the end of class! On a rare occasion, you might need to arrive late or leave early. You must inform the instructor or GTFs if you plan on leaving early. If so, sit in the back of the room near an aisle.

2. Don’t have conversations with your neighbors!

3. If you bring a laptop, you MUST sit in the center aisle within the first six rows of the lecture hall. Your laptop MUST ONLY be used to take notes. No email, computer games, Facebook, YouTube, etc. Turn off cell phones and take the headphones out of your ears. GTFs may check to see that all computers are being used appropriately. Cell phones may be confiscated until the end of the class as well.

4. Though this is primarily a Lecture class, there will be times when students have the opportunity to speak, ask questions, give opinions, etc. It is important to be respectful to all and to listen openly to others’ comments.

Students who do not follow the standards may be asked to leave the lecture.

Policy on Late Work and Incompletes: No late exam essays will be accepted or make-up exams given, except under the following circumstances: Students inform the instructor in advance that they are ill (a doctor’s note is required) or that a documentable emergency has come up. In NO case will an essay be accepted beyond 3 days of when it was due. If a make-up exam is given, it will occur no later than 3 days after it was originally scheduled.

Students with Documented Disabilities: I respect the special needs of students with documented disabilities. It is important to be in touch with me early in the quarter. Accommodations will gladly be made!

Academic Honesty: Students at the UO are expected to act with academic honesty. It is the official policy of the University of Oregon that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty by students be reported to the Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards in the Office of Student Life. The two most prevalent forms of academic dishonesty are cheating and plagiarism.

---Cheating: The UO defines cheating as: “an act of deception by which a student misrepresents or misleadingly demonstrates that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered, including the giving or receiving of unauthorized help in an academic exercise. Examples include, but are not limited to: 1. copying from another student’s test paper, computer program, project, product, or performance; 2. collaborating without authority or allowing another student to copy one's work in a test situation; 3. using the course textbook or other material not authorized for
use during a test; 4. using unauthorized materials during a test; for example, notes, formula lists, cues on a computer, photographs, symbolic representations, and notes written on clothing; 5. resubmitting substantially the same work that was produced for another assignment without the knowledge and permission of the instructor; 6. taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.”

Plagiarism: The UO states that, “Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's product, words, ideas, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific references, such as footnotes. Expectations may vary slightly among disciplines. By placing one's name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. On written assignments, if verbatim statements are included, the statements must be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from regular text as indented extracts. A student will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is an acknowledgement of indebtedness. Indebtedness must be acknowledged whenever: 1. one quotes another person's actual words or replicates all or part of another's product; 2. one uses another person's ideas, opinions, work, data, or theories, even if they are completely paraphrased in one's own words; 3. one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative materials unless the information is common knowledge.”

Academic Outcomes: This class aims to produce an understanding of both the geopolitical and historical origins of piracy in a variety of regions and time periods. The class will develop critical thinking skills, and encourage the student to apply historical and anthropological knowledge to current issues in global piracy, both at sea and with intellectual property. Students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge in a series of exams and also in discussions groups, both online and in class.

Week One: Introducing Piracy

Read:
Alexander Sebastian Dent: Understanding the War on Piracy (Blackboard)
Shannon Lee Dawdy & Joe Bonni: Towards a General Theory of Piracy (Blackboard)

Week Two: Renaissance and Mediterranean Pirates

Read:
Perotin-Dumon; The Pirate and the Emperor: Power and the Law on the Seas, 1450-1850 (in Pennell, pp: 25-54)

Week Three: Piracy in Historical Perspective

Read:
Anderson: Piracy and World History: An Economic Perspective on Maritime Predation (in Pennell, pp: 82-106)
Starkey: Pirates and Markets (in Pennell, pp: 107-124)

Week Four: Buccaneering, Privateering and Corsairing
Read:
Starkey: The Origins and Regulation of Eighteenth Century British Privateering (in Pennell, pp: 69-81)

Week Five The Golden Age of Piracy
Read:
Suggested: Konstam: Chapter 6: The Golden Age (pp.150-249) online.

Midterm Exam

Week Six Pirate Life
Read:
Cordingly: Chapters 1-4 (pp. 3-78)
Rediker: The Seaman as Pirate: Plunder and Social Banditry at Sea (in Pennell, pp: 139-168)

Week Seven More Pirate Life
Read:
Cordingly: Chapters 5-8 (pp. 79-157).

Week Eight Hunting Down the Pirates
Read:
Cordingly: Chapters 10-12 (pp. 178-240)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdpmCfYdAa0 The Golden Age of Piracy

Week Nine Modern Pirates and Piracy
Read:
Konstam: Chapter 10: Modern Piracy (pp. 303-310) online
Anne M. Galvin: Caribbean Piracies/Social Mobilities: Some Commonalities Between Colonial Privateers and Entrepreneurial “Profiteers” in the 21st Century” (Online).

**Week Ten**    Pirates of Fiction and Film
Read:
Cordingly: Chapter 9: Sloops, Schooners, and Pirate Films (pp. 158-177)

Final Exam TBA Exam Week.