

Piracy in Popular Culture
HITO 87
Professor Mark Hanna
Office Room #4059
Office Hours by Appointment

This course studies the roots of the image of piracy in popular culture. We will begin by looking at primary documents from the “Golden Age of Piracy” (roughly 1670 to 1730). Then we will study how pirates became mythologized during the early nineteenth century when they first took on supernatural qualities. By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, pirates became either buffoons or child’s play in works like *Treasure Island*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and *Peter Pan*. Pirates were popular protagonists in early black and white film during the early and mid-twentieth century. Lastly, we will read a first hand account of a man who lived with Somali pirates. In class we will watch numerous clips of piracy from film and television.

Class One: October 10, Introduction

Assignment: Skim primary documents from the “Golden Age of Piracy.”

Mandeville Collection Visit

Write one page response paper.

Class Two: October 17, Captain Kidd’s Gold

Assignment: Read Alan Taylor Article, “The Early Republic’s Supernatural Economy: Treasure Seeking in the American Northeast, 1780-1830” and Edgar Allan Poe’s *The Gold Bug*

Write one page response paper.

Class Three: October 24, Treasure Island

Assignment: Read *Treasure Island* (In class movies of *Pirates of Penzance* and *Peter Pan*); Dave Lee, “The Man who Taught the World How to Talk Like a Pirate.” February 18, 2013.

Write one page response paper.

Class Four: October 31, Swashbuckling in Black and White.

Assignment: Watch Captain Kidd;

Write one page response paper.

Class Five: November 7, Modern Popular Culture

Assignment: Read Jay Bahadur, *The Pirates of Somalia: Inside their Hidden World* (2012)

Write one page response paper.