

Piracy in Popular Culture
HITO 87
Professor Mark Hanna
Office Room #4059
Mondays 1:00-3:00
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 13, Introduction: What do pirates look like?

Assignments: Dave Lee, “The Man who Taught the World How to Talk Like a Pirate.” February 18, 2013.

We will be going to the UCSD Mandeville Special Collections Library.

Class Two: October 20, Pirates in Print

Assignment: Choose a primary document from Special Collections like *The General History of the Pyrates* (1724) and *Bucaniers of America* (1684).

Write one page response paper.

Class Three: October 27, Treasure Island

Assignment: Read *Treasure Island* (In class movies of *Pirates of Penzance* (1982 version) and *Peter Pan* (1924 American version)).

Write one page response paper.

Class Four: November 3, Swashbuckling in Black and White.

Assignment: Watch Captain Kidd

Write one page response paper.

In class we will watch trailers of over thirty movies beginning in the 1920s into the present day.

Class Five: November 10, Modern Popular Culture

Assignment: Read Jay Bahadur, *The Pirates of Somalia: Inside their Hidden World* (2012); Check out the International Chamber of Commerce’s “Live Piracy Map.”

Write one page response paper.