

Pirate Movie Review

Due on Thursday, December 5th by midnight via e-mail

Pirates have always been a favorite theme for audiences and filmmakers alike. Some writers and directors make an effort to present pirates and their actions authentically, while others simply reuse stereotypes that they know will resonate with viewers. In this paper you will assess the historic accuracy of **ONE** film about pirates set in the 17th-early 20th century by comparing/contrasting it with what you have learned about actual pirates during this course. To that end you will need to answer the following question in your paper:

How accurate is the portrayal of pirates in [insert film name here]?

In particular, you will need to identify 2-3 characteristics/events/people presented in the movie to organize your paper around and discuss what historians have said about those topics. Depending on which film you watch and which topics you choose to focus on you may argue that people who watch the film will get an accurate image, while a classmate viewing a different movie may conclude the opposite. It is all a question of defending your viewpoint based on the criteria you are discussing.

Step #1: Watch a film about pirates to be selected from these on **RESERVE** in the Library:

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☒ <i>The Black Swan</i> | ☒ <i>The Pirates! Band of Misfits</i> |
| ☒ <i>Captain Blood</i> | ☒ <i>The Princess Bride</i> |
| ☒ <i>Muppet Treasure Island</i> | ☒ <i>Treasure Island</i> (1989) |
| ☒ <i>Peter Pan</i> | ☒ <i>Treasure Island</i> (2011) |

Step #2: You must also reference **FIVE** historians of pirates. Suggestions for historians to use:

- ☒ *Under the Black Flag* and *Villains of all Nations*.
- ☒ The articles you used for your annotations.
- ☒ The chapters from *Bandits at Sea* that have been handed out in class.
- ☒ Find some new journal articles if there is a particular issue you wish to learn more about.

Step #3: Consider the primary source materials historians have available to learn the “truth” about early modern piracy. The strongest arguments for this assignment will be supported with not only a historian’s impression of the pirates in question, but will also discuss how the historian arrived at their conclusions.

Technical Specifics:

Papers must be 1250-1500 words long (so 4-5 pages in length). Papers should be double-spaced in 12 pt. font, with 1-inch margins. You must turn them in via e-mail to cmyers@monmouthcollege.edu. As with all papers you must reference your sources, not use the first person, and not use contractions in writing your paper. Also note: Your grade will drop by 10 pts. each day it is late.

Reminder:

As noted in your class syllabus, students at Monmouth are all expected to read and abide by the Scots Guide Student Handbook. In particular you should remember that plagiarism is **illegal**, so you must follow the guidelines for referencing your reading and class notes closely. And if you have any questions about how to properly cite your sources, ask!!!

Optional Proofreading Day:

The class period on the day the paper is due has been set aside for in-class proofreading. If you would like to have a classmate read through your paper, you will need to bring a copy of your paper with you and you can do the same in return.

Writing Center:

Students are also encouraged to make use of the Writing Center in the MLC. You can access their schedule at <http://www2.monm.edu/cac/writing-center/writing-center.htm>

Footnotes:

For any piece of information or ideas you use from another source, you must provide a reference. Let me repeat that...for *any* piece of information or ideas you use from another source, you must provide a reference. In addition, you must place quotation marks around any direct wording you take from a source, even if it is only three or four words.

As a general rule, you should have at least one footnote per paragraph in your paper. You may list more than one source in the footnote to save you making too many of them, but you must have all the knowledge you have "borrowed" properly cited.

For this paper, please use footnotes. Your computer will automatically insert them for you. To insert a footnote, place cursor at the end of the sentence and do as follows:

- ★ In the newest version of Microsoft Word (for Windows)...go to the Reference tab.
- ★ Click on "Add Footnote..."
- ★ Automatically a new "footnote" will come up at the bottom of your paper, set to the correct footnote number you should be on. At that point you will type in your reference information according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*. After you are finished, you can move your cursor back to the main text of your paper with your mouse. It is also good to know that you can cut, paste, and copy footnotes just as you can any other text (by highlighting the number in the paper itself and performing whichever function you need) and all the reference information will move along with the number.
- ★ Footnotes are normally in 10pt. font.
- ★ Do not change the default settings the computer uses for your footnotes, they should all be correct already.
- ★ There will NEVER be two footnotes with the same number.
- ★ Finally, footnotes are NOT footers and should not be in your footer.

If you have questions on the proper way to format a particular source, be sure to ask, but here are some examples to help you in laying out your references:

¹ History 240: Pirates of the Barbary and the Caribbean, September 19, 2013.

² Marcus Rediker, *Villains of all Nations* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2004): 124-25.

³ Class notes, October 1, 2012.

⁴ Rediker, 75.

⁵ *Captain Blood*, directed by Michael Curtiz (1935; Warner Bros., Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video Inc., 2005), DVD.

⁶ David Starkey, "Pirates and Markets," in C. R. Pennell, ed., *Bandits at Sea: A Pirates Reader* (New York and London: New York University Press, 2001), 108-10.

No Bibliography or Works Cited page is required for this assignment.