Department of History and Politics
Liverpool Hope University

MA HISTORY

HISM006

A NATION OF PIRATES:
ENGLISH PIRACY AND PRIVATEERING, c. 1570 to 1620.

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Sample
INTRODUCTION

Synopsis:

This module examines the significance and character of English piracy and privateering during a formative period of English maritime enterprise, exploring patterns of activity within the waters around the British Isles, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and through the careers of adventurers such as Sir Francis Drake, John Callice and John Ward.

Aims:

This module aims:
1. To explore in depth the significance and character of English piracy and privateering during the period from c. 1570 to 1620, taking account of recent debate and controversy.
2. To develop students’ ability to critically interpret and use a varied range of relevant secondary and primary materials, and to be aware of their strengths and limitations.
3. To enhance conceptual understanding, enabling students to become more aware of the significance and value of historiography, current research and, where appropriate, different approaches and methodologies.
4. To develop students’ ability to communicate effectively and analytically at Masters level.

Learning outcomes:

Students will demonstrate:
1. A deep understanding of the significance and character of English maritime depredation during the period from c. 1570 to 1620, taking account of recent debate and controversy.
2. A more critical and assured appreciation of varied source materials in the essay.
3. A more informed and detailed understanding of current research and, where appropriate, of different methodologies in the subject.
4. Clear and effective communication skills for work in the subject at advanced level.

Assessment:

One essay of 3000 words in length.
PROGRAMME

Piracy and privateering: definitions and earlier practices

Elizabethan piracy: pirate fraternities during the 1570s

English piracy in the Caribbean: Drake and company during the 1570s

War, plunder and piracy 1585-1603

The legacy of war: Atlantic piracy during the early seventeenth century

The changing character of English piracy: pirates, renegades and outcasts in the Mediterranean

Seminar: Pirate culture: lives and life cycles of English pirates and plunderers.
ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. How far was the growth of piracy during the 1560s and 1570s the product of international rivalry and tension with Spain?

2. To what extent was the spread of English piracy into the Caribbean during the 1570s dependent on the support of the cimaroons?

3. How successful was the Tudor monarchy in dealing with the problem of piracy during the 1570s and 1580s?

4. To what extent can English privateering be seen as an alternative to piracy during the period from 1585 to 1603?

5. To what extent was the growth English piracy after 1604 the result of the peace with Spain?

Due:
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**War, Plunder and Piracy, 1585-1503**

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**Piracy in the Early Seventeenth Century:**


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