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Wednesdays, 5:35 to 8:35 pm  
Ruth Adams Building 110-B  
Spring Semester 2014

## **Pirates, Mutinies, and Shipwrecks Preliminary Syllabus 01:050:201**

Office location: Ruth Adams Building 024

Douglass Campus

Office Hours: Mondays 4:00 to 5:00 pm  
And by appointment

An interdisciplinary study of the art, literature, adventure, lore, poetry, film and learning of the sea with a focus on criminal violence at sea, conspiracies of crews on ships who rebel against their superior officers, and maritime disasters, especially those involving large loss of life. Required reading consists of three classic books as follows:

Treasure Island A novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. The story is told in the first person for the most part by the boy hero; the rest is told in the person of Doctor Livesey. The character of John Silver dominated Stevenson so completely that the outcome is not entirely acceptable from a moral point of view. The book, according to Stevenson, was born out of his fascination with a water-color map he himself drew of an imagined treasure island.

Mutiny on the Bounty Written in the form of a novel by Nordhoff and Hall. Completely romantic in temper, the book is a great story of adventure based on actual fact. The story of the voyage of the *Bounty*, which sailed from England in 1787, the mutiny aboard her, the exploit of Captain Bligh in piloting a small boat across thirty-six hundred miles of open sea, the trial of the mutineers, and the final refuge of others on remote Pitcairn Island, are all matters of record. The authors' free arrangement of material is designed to give to factual narrative the drama and romantic atmosphere of fiction.

Robinson Crusoe A novel by Daniel Defoe. It is read as eagerly today as when it was first published. At times the narrative seems too detailed since the routine of Crusoe's life on the island was much the same. But Defoe knew the theatrical device of timing, for no sooner do we begin to tire of reading, the daily account of his hero's life than a new

situation breaks the monotony of Crusoe's life and of our reading.

Required Reading

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*. New York: Dover Thrift Edition, 1993  
New York: Dover Publications, Incorporated  
ISBN 978-0-486-27559-8

Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall, *Mutiny on the Bounty*.  
Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1960  
ISBN 0-316-61168-9

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*. New York: Dover Thrift Edition, 1998  
Mineola, New York: Dover Publications, Incorporated  
ISBN 13:978-0-486-4027-1

Absence Policy

Time has meanings that speak loud and clear in any organization. It tells the organization whether you care or not. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Please come up to the front of the room and check in before you take your seat. If you arrive late, be sure to check in after class before you leave. Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website which appears below: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Disability Services

All special accommodation requests must be brought to my attention during the first two weeks of class. You may contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or [dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu)) to discuss accommodations.