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*Moments of Being*









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The "Golden Age of Piracy," a period of time from roughly the 1650's through 1730's, has left an indelible mark on literature and popular culture: from the 17th and 18th centuries through today, pirates have been both romanticized and vilified in tales that alternately celebrate and condemn their sense of adventure, opportunism, and lawlessness. Piracy in the North Atlantic and Indian Oceans arose at the same time as British and European colonial expansion in the Americas and Caribbean, connecting piracy with larger conversations around maritime exploration and imperial greed in this era. In this course, we'll examine cultural representations of this Golden Age of piracy from their immediate context in the late 17th and early 18th centuries alongside later works of historical fiction, including Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* and the HBO TV series *Our Flag Means Death*, set during the same time period. Along the way, we'll meet iconic pirates like Blackbeard, Stede Bonnet, and Anne Bonny, and we'll explore how pirates have become rich cultural figures for critiquing historical representations of gender, sexuality, race, and colonialism

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