In this class, we will read a number of classic maritime novels in order to trace the themes and styles of both modern fiction and literary theory. Writers whom we will engage include, but are not limited to, Daniel Defoe, Ernest Hemingway, Virginia Woolf, and Ursula Le Guin. Some themes we will explore include isolation and loneliness, society and labor, piracy and legality, mutiny and social hierarchies, exploration and imperialism.