

## HISTORY 315 WITCHCRAFT AND MAGIC IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Fall Semester 2008

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50 Humanities 2211

Jodi Bilinkoff Humanities 2114

Office Hours: MWF 10:00-10:45, and by appointment

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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### REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Michael D. Bailey, Magic and Superstition in Europe

Brian Levack, The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe (3rd ed.)

Alan C. Kors and Edward Peters, eds., Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) [K&P]

Christopher Marlowe, Dr. Faustus

These books have also been placed on reserve at Jackson Library.  
Selected readings are available via e-reserves.

M	8/25	Introduction to Course
W	8/27	What is Magic? Levack 4-12; Bailey 1-7
F	8/29	Myth and Magic in Greco-Roman Antiquity Bailey 9-35
M	9/1	LABOR DAY
W	9/3	The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry K&P 359-367
F	9/5	Religion and Politics in the Roman World
M	9/8	Christian Origins Bailey 43-59 1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNED
W	9/10	Christianity and the Concept of Evil K&P 6-12; Bailey 38-42, 46-53 Mark 5:1-21 (e-reserves)
F	9/12	Book of Revelation (e-reserves]
M	9/15	Book of Revelation: Discussion 1-2 PAGE RESPONSE + 3 QUESTIONS DUE

W 9/17 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe  
Bailey 59-70; K&P 41-44;  
"Pope Gregory's Letter to Mellitus" (e-reserves)

F 9/19 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe  
Bailey 70-75; K&P 60-63

M 9/22 Heresy in Medieval Europe  
Bailey 96-106; K&P 58-59, 78-81

W 9/24 Heresy in Medieval Europe  
Bailey 107-119; K&P 87-90,103-105

F 9/26 Demonology in the Late Middle Ages  
Bailey 119-140; Levack 32-51  
K&P 112-114, 169-172

M 9/29 The Malleus Maleficarum  
K&P 176-180; 181-229; Levack 51-61

W 10/1 The Malleus Maleficarum: Discussion  
K&P 181-229

F 10/3 The Reformation  
K&P 259-260; Levack 109-120; Bailey 193-200

M 10/6 Martin Luther and the Devil  
K&P 261-265; Levack 120-130  
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM ASSIGNED

W 10/8 Witchcraft, the Law, and the State  
Levack 13-24; 74-103; Bailey 35-38, 110-119  
K&P 290-302

F 10/10 Trials: Chelmsford  
K&P 302-308  
Levack 141-165, 217-223; Bailey 166-167  
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE

M 10/13 Trials: Chelmsford  
K&P 302-308

W 10/15 Trials: Suzanne Gaudry Revisited  
K&P 359-367; Bailey 141-152

F 10/17 Trials: Marie Cornu  
K&P 345-348; Bailey 162, 174-177  
LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

M 10/20 FALL BREAK

W 10/22 Trials: Scotland  
K&P 318-322; Levack 175-188

F 10/24 Witchcraft and Royal Authority: Scotland  
K&P 318-322; Levack 65-67; Bailey 167-168

M 10/27 Trials: Bamberg  
K&P 348-353; Levack 188-199

W 10/29 Trials: Bamberg  
K&P 348-353  
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNED

F 10/31 Demonic Possession: Loudun  
K&P 355-359; Levack 184-185  
"The Possessions at Loudun, 1634" (e-reserves)

M 11/3 Possession and Puritanism: Salem  
K&P 367-370, 436-437  
Levack 185-186; Bailey 168-169  
"The Salem Witch Trials, 1692" (e-reserves)

W 11/5 Trials: Discussion  
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE + THREE QUESTIONS DUE

F 11/7 NO CLASS MEETING

M 11/10 The Making of the Faust Legend  
Acts 8:9-25 (e-reserves); "Of the Knight Henry"  
(e-reserves); Russell 55-58 (e-reserves)  
Levack 37; Bailey 114-115

W 11/12 Marlowe Dr Faustus  
Bailey 91-96, 180-193

F 11/14 Marlowe Dr Faustus

M 11/17 Marlowe Dr Faustus

W 11/19 The Legend: Now and Then  
Discussion

F 11/21 The Witch Hunt in Germany: A Closer Look  
Levack 20-24, 210-217, 242-245; Bailey 152-162  
Wolfgang Behringer, "Weather, Hunger and Fear"  
(e-reserves)  
[optional: "Fertility," from Lyndal Roper,  
Witch Craze e-reserves]

M 11/24 The Decline of Magic: Skepticism and Toleration  
K&P 280-289, 314-317  
Levack 61-65, 253-269; Bailey 170-174

W 11/26 THANKSGIVING

F 11/28

M 12/1 The Decline of Magic: Skepticism and Toleration  
K&P 392-394, 402-406, 429-435  
Levack 128-130, 206-213, 269-281

W 12/3 Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories

F 12/5 Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories  
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM ASSIGNED

M 12/8 Persistence of Persecution: Future Witch Hunts?  
Levack 289-294, 299-305

F 12/12 TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S  
MAILBOX IN HISTORY DEPT OFFICE (HUMANITIES 2118A)  
BY 2:00 PM. YOU MAY HAND IT IN EARLIER IF YOU WISH.

## GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Attendance Policy:** I require regular attendance for this course. We cover a lot of material and one absence could mean missing out on a hundred years or more of European history! If you are not prepared to attend consistently, come on time, and stay until the end of the class period, please drop the course. If you miss more than 3 classes you may be dropped from the course at the sole discretion of the instructor; if you miss 3 classes in a row you will definitely be dropped. Students who miss the first two class sessions and do not notify me will be dropped from the course.
2. **Attentiveness Policy:** If you are not prepared to pay attention and take careful notes during class periods, please drop this course. I do not make seating assignments, but if I find that students are talking together during class or behaving in such a way that distracts me or other students, I will require them to change their seats. I do not allow laptops in the classroom, except in documented cases of medical need. In those cases I will require students to seat themselves so as not to distract others. Cellphones and other electronic equipment must be turned off and stowed away from desks during class period.
3. Please read the material specified for a given class period or periods before coming to class. It is essential to keep up with the syllabus. Please let me know if you misplace your syllabus and I will be happy to supply you with another copy. Course syllabi are also available on the History dept website: <http://www.uncg.edu/his>
4. Please bring to class the book(s) and other readings designated for that day. This is particularly important in the case of primary source material such as Kors & Peters and Dr. Faustus, for we will be examining the texts together in class.
5. Grades will be based primarily upon several take-home assignments, which will be described in detail during the course of the semester. Please word-process these assignments, double-spaced and spell-checked. You must hand in a hard copy; I will not accept work sent as an e-mail attachment without prior arrangement. I look for correctness and clarity of exposition in written essays, as well as an understanding of course content. To me history, and the ways in which it is expressed are not two different things, but are rather, intimately connected. In other words: writing counts!

I also take attendance and class participation into account when formulating grades. Participation may be manifested in various ways: questions, comments, mental alertness, intellectual engagement with and curiosity about the material. I will

formulate grades according to the following rough formula:  
Midterm and Final Exams, 30% each, Response Papers, 15% each,  
Participation, 10%.

All assignments are due on the days specified in the syllabus.

**RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** If for any reason you are unable to hand in assignments on time it is YOUR responsibility to contact me beforehand. Alas, despite years of reading this material I have failed to develop the skill of telepathy! If I am not contacted directly or by message before the due date I will NOT accept late assignments. See front page of syllabus for ways of contacting me.

6. If you do not think you will be able to abide by these guidelines, please drop the course so that someone else can take it. The last day to drop the course without academic penalty is Friday October 17.