

HIS 740-01 WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE: DOCUMENTS AND  
INTERPRETATIONS

Fall Semester 2011  
Mondays 3:30-6:20 PM  
MHRA 3209

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Brian Levack, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition  
Robin Briggs, *Witches and Neighbors*  
*The Witchcraft Reader*, ed. Darren Oldridge 2<sup>nd</sup> edition [WR]  
*Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700*, eds. Alan Charles Kors and Edward Peters 2<sup>nd</sup> edition [K&P]  
Carlo Ginzburg, *The Night Battles*

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore. Purchasing books using the internet can frequently result in savings. The books also have been placed on reserve at Jackson Library. [Note: at present only the first edition of *The Witchcraft Reader* is on reserve; the second edition is on rush order and hopefully will arrive soon.] In addition, several readings have been placed on e-reserves or are available using JSTOR.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Aug 22 Introduction to Course

Aug 29 Christians, Heretics, and Satan's Human Followers

Levack 1-12  
Elaine Pagels, *The Origin of Satan* 179-184 [e-reserves]  
Oldridge 19-22 [WR]  
Cohn 31-36 [WR]  
Norman Cohn, "The Myth of Satan and His Human Followers" 3-16 [e-reserves]  
K&P 1-17, 41-42, 43-47 (Augustine), 78-81 (Heretics of Rheims)

- Sep 5           LABOR DAY
- Sep 12           Intellectuals and Demons
- Levack 13-29, 30-73  
                  Broedel 43-47 [WR]  
                  Clark 120-130 [WR]  
                  Stuart Clark, "Inversion, Misrule and the Meaning of Witchcraft," *Past and Present* 87-1 (1980): 98-127 [JSTOR]  
                  K&P 87-90, 90-104 (Aquinas)
- Sep 19           The Reformation: Changes and Continuities
- Levack 109-133  
                  Briggs 121-130  
                  Bailey 37-42 [WR]  
                  Clark 136-147 [WR]  
                  Rowlands 148-153 [WR]  
                  Waite 154-163 [WR]  
                  K&P 259-260, 261-265 (Luther), 265-270 (Calvin), 367-370 (Mather)  
                  Martin Luther on "spiritual witchcraft" [e-reserves]
- Sep 26           Magic, the Family, and the Village
- Levack 134-174  
                  Briggs 63-95, 221-256  
                  Oldridge 49-52 [WR]  
                  Miller 64-68 [WR]  
                  Keith Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic* 3-26 [e-reserves]  
                  K&P 302-308 (Chelmsford) , 345-348 (Marie Cornu)
- FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE
- Oct 3            An Age of Anxiety?
- Levack 163-165  
                  Briggs 289-316  
                  Behringer 74-85 [WR]  
                  Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze* "Fertility" [e-reserves]  
                  K&P 359-367 (Suzanne Gaudry)
- Oct 10           FALL BREAK
- FRI OCT 14       LAST DAY TO DROP COURSES

- Oct 17 Folklore, the Sabbath, and the Old Religion
- Margaret Murray, *The Witch-Cult in Western Europe* 9-18 [e-reserves]  
Briggs 17-59  
Oldridge 87-91 [WR]  
Simpson 93-98 [WR]  
Midelfort 99-106 [WR]  
Henningsen 107-111 [WR]  
Pocs 112-119 [WR]  
Krause 305-310 [WR]  
K&P 60-63 (Canon Episcopi), 189-193 (from *Malleus Maleficarum*)
- Oct 24 Microhistory and the Murray Thesis Revisited
- Carlo Ginzburg, *The Night Battles* (complete)
- Oct 31 Law, Politics, and the State
- Levack 74-108  
Briggs 319-367  
Oldridge 165-169 [WR]  
Larner 171-179 [WR]  
Williams 180-184 [WR]  
Levack 185-197 [WR]  
Monter 198-204 [WR]  
Robert Muchembled on judges in Flanders [e-reserves]  
K&P 290-302 (Bodin), 204-229 (from *Malleus Maleficarum*), 348-353 (Bamberg)
- Nov 7 Was Witch-Hunting Woman-Hunting?
- Briggs 257-277, 282-286  
Oldridge 247-252 [WR]  
Larner 253-256 [WR]  
Ferber 230-239 [WR]  
Reis 261-266 [WR]  
Holmes 267-286 [WR]  
Joseph Klaitz, *Servants of Satan* 48-85 [e-reserves]  
K&P 193-204 (from *Malleus Maleficarum*)

SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE

Nov 14 Mothers and Midwives

Briggs 277-281

Davidson 257-260 [WR]

Jackson 311-323 [WR]

Lyndal Roper, "Witchcraft and Fantasy in Early Modern Germany," *History Workshop Journal* 32(1991):19-43 [JSTOR]

Maria Tausiet, "Witchcraft as Metaphor: Infanticide and its Translations in Aragon in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," 179-195 [e-reserves]

K&P 181-189 (from Malleus Maleficarum)

Nov 21 Diagnosing the Craze: Psychology and Medicine

Briggs 371-394

Bever 69-73 [WR]

Sands 223-229 [WR]

Roper 324-335 [WR]

John Demos, "Underlying Themes in the Witchcraft of Seventeenth-Century New England," *American Historical Review* 75-5(1970):1311-1326 [JSTOR]

Linnda R. Caporael, "Ergotism: the Satan Loosed in Salem," *Science* 192 (2 Apr 1976) [JSTOR and on internet]

Nicholas P. Spano, "Ergotism and the Salem Witch Panic," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 19-4(1983): 358-369 [JSTOR]

Mary K. Matossian, *Poisons of the Past* 113-122 [e-reserves]

Nov 28 The End of the Craze

Levack 257-288

Briggs 397-411

Oldridge 337-340 [WR]

Slattery 240-245 [WR]

Levack 341-348 [WR]

Davies 353-366 [WR]

Gijswijt-Hofstra 367-371 [WR]

K&P 429-435 (Bekker)

ORAL BOOK REPORTS

Dec 5

Witch Hunting Today?

Levack 289-308

Oldridge 373-378 [WR]

Purkiss 379-384 [WR]

La Fontaine 383-388 [WR]

ORAL BOOK REPORTS

Assessing the Course, Celebrating the End of the Semester

Fri Dec 9

THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S MAILBOX IN HISTORY DEPARTMENT OFFICE (MHRA 2118A) BY 2:00 PM. YOU MAY HAND IT IN EARLIER IF YOU WISH.

## GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. As this class only meets once a week, please make a strong effort to attend every class meeting. If you will not be able to attend a class or must arrive late please notify me ahead of time. I will check my phone messages and e-mail just before the class begins.
2. Please read the material for a given class period before coming to class. It is **essential** to keep up with the syllabus. 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 Department website: <http://www.uncg.edu/his>

3. Course grades will be based on the following factors, in this order of priority:

Three written assignments, two based on readings for the course, and a critical book or literature review due at the end of the semester. I will describe these assignments in greater detail after the drop/add period has ended and the semester gets underway. All written work must be word processed, double-spaced, with 12-point fonts and standard 1" margins, and spell-checked.

Each student will be responsible for an oral presentation and formulation of questions for discussion based on the weekly reading assignments. I will make assignments and explain this in greater detail after the first meeting when I can gauge the number and preferences of students. Please organize your oral presentation according to an outline or other written plan, which I will collect and use for comments and assessment.

Class participation is **crucial** to a seminar-style course such as this; I do not intend to lecture. The frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussions will thus figure into your grade.

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

**RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** If you are for any reason unable to hand in assignments on time it is YOUR responsibility to contact me beforehand. If I am not contacted directly or by message I will not accept late assignments. See front page of the syllabus for ways of contacting me.