

HIS 315 WITCHCRAFT AND MAGIC IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Fall Semester 2016
Tuesday, Thursday 2:00-3:15 PM
Curry 204

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REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Michael D. Bailey, *Magic and Superstition in Europe* ISBN: 978-0742533875
Brian Levack, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* (4th edition) ISBN: 978-1-138-80810-2
Alan C. Kors and Edward Peters, eds. *Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700* (2nd edition)
ISBN: 978-0812217513 [K&P]
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus* ISBN: 978-0872207295

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore, however, buying books via the internet usually results in considerable savings. They have also been placed on reserve at Jackson Library. In addition, some documents are available as hyperlinks or pdfs, as I will explain.

COURSE SYLLABUS:

- T 8/23 Introduction to Course/
What is Magic?
Levack 1-12; Bailey 1-7
- Th 8/25 Myth and Magic in Greco-Roman Antiquity
Bailey 9-35
- T 8/30 Student Introductions/ Course Guidelines/
The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry: A First Glimpse
K&P 359-360; Levack 12-22
- Th 9/1 Religion and Politics in the Roman World/
Christian Origins
Bailey 43-59
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER + 3 QUESTIONS ASSIGNED
- T 9/6 Christianity and the Problem of Evil
Bailey 38-42, 46-53; K&P 6-12
from the [New Testament](#):
<http://www.devotions.net/bible/00new.htm>
Mark 5:1-21
Book of Revelation
[Note: These links take you to a table of contents. Just click on the appropriate book and chapter of the New Testament. It is fine to use your own copy of the New Testament; I have just supplied this link for the sake of convenience.]
- Th 9/8 Book of Revelation: Discussion
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER + 3 QUESTIONS DUE
- T 9/13 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe
Bailey 59-70; K&P 41-44
["Pope Gregory's Letter to Mellitus"](#)
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bede/history.v.i.xxix.html>
- Th 9/15 Christianity and the Persistence of Paganism: the Canon Episcopi
Bailey 70-75; K&P 60-63
- T 9/20 High Medieval Europe: Heresy
Bailey 96-119; K&P 58-59, 78-81

- Th 9/22 Later Medieval Europe: Demonology;
Overturning the Canon Episcopi
Bailey 119-140; Levack 27-41
K&P 87-90, 103-105, 169-172
- T 9/27 The Malleus Maleficarum
Levack 41-5; K&P 176-180; 181-229
- Th 9/29 The Malleus Maleficarum: Discussion
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM ASSIGNED
- T 10/4 Sixteenth-Century Developments: State-Building and Reformation
Levack 68-95; Bailey 35-38, 110-119
K&P 290-302
- Th 10/6 The Protestant Reformation: Martin Luther and the Devil
Levack 100-118; Bailey 193-200; K&P 259-265
- T 10/11 Trials: Chelmsford, England
Levack 122-151, 198-202; Bailey 166-167
K&P 302-308
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE
- Th 10/13 Chelmsford, England
K&P 302-308
- F 10/14 **Last Day to Drop Classes**
- T 10/18 **Fall Break**
- Th 10/20 Spanish Netherlands (NE France, Belgium)
Levack 159-171, 195-196; Bailey 141-152, 162, 174-177
K&P 359-367; 345-348
- T 10/25 Edinburgh, Scotland
Levack, 171-175, 198-202; Bailey 167-168
K&P 318-322
- Th 10/27 Bamberg, Germany
Levack 184-195; K&P 348-353

- T 11/1 Demonic Possession: Loudun, France
Levack 197-198, 237-240
K&P 355-359
Contemporary documents; see e-mailed pdf
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNED
- Th 11/3 Demon Possession: Salem, Massachusetts
Levack 202-203, 221-223, [204-221, for other parts of Europe]
Bailey 168-169; K&P 367-370; 436-437
Salem trials documents, see e-mailed pdf
- T 11/8 Trials: Discussion
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER + 3 QUESTIONS DUE
- Th 11/10 The Making of the Faust Legend
Levack 33-37; Bailey 114-115
Acts 8:9-24 [see link for New Testament, 9/6]
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus* Act I, scene 1
- T 11/15 *Doctor Faustus*
- Th 11/17 *Doctor Faustus*/Discussion: The Legend Now and Then
- T 11/22 The Decline of Magic
Levack 56-62, 175-181, 230-256; Bailey 170-174
K&P 280-289, 314-317, 392-394, 402-406, 429-435
- Th 11/24 **THANKSGIVING**
- T 11/29 The Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories
- Th 12/1 Students' Stories/Persistence of Persecution: Future Witch Hunts?
Levack 262-276
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM ASSIGNED
- F 12/9 **TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN THE MAILBOX NEXT TO DR. BILINKOFF'S OFFICE (2127 MHRA) NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM.**

STUDENTS MAY HAND IN THEIR EXAMS EARLIER IF THEY 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. Be sure to use the bathroom facilities before the class begins. If you miss more than 3 classes you may be dropped at the 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 so that others may add. In case of an emergency, contact the Dean of Students Office and they will contact all of your instructors: (336) 334-5514 deanofstudents@uncg.edu
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 a way that distracts me or other students I will require them to change their seats. Please do not pack up your belongings until the class period has ended; this can be very distracting.
3. I do not permit laptop computers 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 silenced during the class period and used **only** to access primary source documents. I **strongly advise**, however, that you print out hard copies and bring them to class when we are examining them together so that you can highlight significant words and passages and take notes. Students have found this method **extremely** helpful in assuring their success in this challenging course.
4. 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. If you lose your copy, just ask me for another. Be sure to bring to class primary source materials: the collection edited by Kors and Peters, Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, and the documents for which there are links to the internet. We will be going over many of these materials together in class.
5. Grades will be based primarily upon several take-home assignments, which I will describe in greater detail during the course of the semester. All assignments must be word-processed, double-spaced, spell-checked, using a 12-point font and standard 1" margins. I require hard copies of assignments; 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 rather, intimately connected. In other words: writing counts!

I will 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. All of these are important factors in university learning. I will formulate grades according to this rough breakdown: Midterm and Final Exams, 30% each, Response Papers, 15% each, Participation, 10%.

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

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE: If for **ANY** reason you are unable to hand in an assignment 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 the syllabus for ways of contacting me.

7. 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 courses without academic penalty is Friday October 14.

LEARNING GOALS FOR HISTORY MAJORS: THINKING IN TIME

The History faculty hopes that by the time a History major graduates he/she will be able to:

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]
3. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Analysis]
4. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation]

If you are not a History major, consider the learning goals for your own field. How do they differ and how are they the same? And for all students: What are your own personal learning goals?

