

HIS 315-01 WITCHCRAFT AND MAGIC IN EUROPEAN HISTORY:**BELIEF, PERSECUTION, AND PROSECUTION**

Fall Semester 2023
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:15 pm
Bryan 205

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Office: MHRA 2127
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:15-1:30 pm and by appointment
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REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Michael D. Bailey, *Magic and Superstition in Europe* ISBN: 978-0742533875
Available for purchase or rental; not available as an eBook in Jackson Library

Brian Levack, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* (4th ed.) ISBN: 978-1-138-80810-2
Available for purchase, rental, or as an eBook in Jackson Library

Alan C. Kors and Edward Peters, eds. *Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700* (2nd ed.)
ISBN: 978-0812217513
Available for purchase or rental; not available as an eBook

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, ed. David Wootton ISBN: 978-0872207295
Available for purchase, rental, or as an eBook in Jackson Library

These four books are available to purchase or rent from the UNCG Bookstore. Purchasing used or new copies using the internet is perfectly fine as well.

Most of the primary source documents we will be using are also available as hyperlinks on the syllabus or as pdfs on Canvas.

Assigned readings are required for all students; readings within brackets are optional for undergraduates, required for graduate students.

COURSE SYLLABUS:

W 8/16 Welcome to the Course
What is Magic?
Levack 1-12, [12-22]; Bailey 1-7

M 8/21 Myth and Magic in Greco-Roman Antiquity
Bailey 9-11, [11-15], 15-35, [35-38]

END OF DROP/ADD PERIOD

W 8/23 Students' Introductions
Course Guidelines
The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry: A First Glimpse
Kors and Peters [hereafter, K&P] 359-361 (or pdf on Canvas)

M 8/28 Religion and Politics in the Roman World
Christian Origins
Bailey 43-53, [53-59]

RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNED

W 8/30 Christianity and the Problem of Evil
Bailey 38-42, 46-53; K&P 6-12
from the New Testament:
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1&version=NIV>
Mark 5:1-21; Matthew 4:1-11
The Book of Revelation (or, The Apocalypse), complete
[Note: These links take you to Matthew 1:1. Just click on
"Bible Book List" at the top of the screen, pull down menu, then search the New
Testament column for the appropriate books and chapters.] **It is fine to use
your own copy of the New Testament; I have just supplied this link for the sake
of convenience.**

M 9/4 **LABOR DAY**

W 9/6 Book of Revelation: Questions, Themes, Relevance to Course Topics

COME PREPARED WITH AT LEAST ONE DISCUSSION QUESTION

- M 9/11 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe
Bailey 59-70; K&P 41-42, [41-47]
“Pope Gregory's Letter to Mellitus” (see pdf on Canvas)

RESPONSE PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM. EMAIL DIRECTLY TO DR. BILINKOFF AS A WORD FILE OR PDF, DO NOT SEND VIA CANVAS.

- W 9/13 Christianity and the Persistence of Paganism: the Canon Episcopi
Bailey 70-75; K&P 60-63 (or pdf on Canvas)
- M 9/18 Heresy and the Formation of a Persecuting Society
Bailey [77-96], 107-119
- W 9/20 Demonizing Heretics: the “Heretics of Rheims”
K&P 78-81 (or pdf on Canvas)
- M 9/25 Demonology in Late Medieval Europe, or
Overturning the Canon Episcopi
Bailey 119-140; Levack 27-41
K&P 87-90, 103-104, 169-172 (document by Jacquier also on pdf on Canvas)

TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAM ASSIGNED

- W 9/27 Malleus Maleficarum: Establishing Authority, Major Themes
Levack 41-56; K&P 176-180, 181-204, 205-219

BOOK REPORTS ASSIGNED, DUE MONDAY NOVEMBER 6

- M 10/2 The Impact of the Reformation: Religion and Law
Levack 68-81 [81-94] 94-95, 100-107, 110-112, [107-110, 112-118]
K&P 259-260, 290-308, for Luther’s Commentary on Galatians, see pdf on Canvas
- W 10/4 Trials: Chelmsford, England
Levack 122-151, 198-203; Bailey 166-167, [184-229]
K&P 302-308 (or pdf on Canvas)

**TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM.
EMAIL DIRECTLY TO DR. BILINKOFF AS A WORD FILE OR PDF,
DO NOT SEND VIA CANVAS**

- F 10/6 **LAST DAY TO DROP COURSES**

- M 10/9 **FALL BREAK**

- W 10/11 Chelmsford, England
Levack 122-151, 198-203; Bailey 166-167, [184-229]
K&P 302-308 (or pdf on Canvas)
- M 10/16 Spanish Netherlands (Belgium): Suzanne Gaudry
Levack 159-171, 195-196; Bailey 141-152, 162, 174-176, [152-176]
K&P 359-367 (or pdf on Canvas)
- W 10/18 Spanish Netherlands (Belgium): Marie Cornu
Levack 159-171, 195-197; Bailey 141-152, 162, 174-176
K&P 345-348 (or pdf on Canvas)
- M 10/23 German Lands: Bamberg
Levack 184-196; K&P 348-353 (or pdf on Canvas)

**LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS TO INFORM DR. BILINKOFF VIA EMAIL
OF THE BOOK THEY HAVE CHOSEN FOR THEIR BOOK REPORTS,
DUE MONDAY NOVEMBER 6.**

- W 10/25 Edinburgh, Scotland: Dr. Fian
Levack, 171-175, 198-202; Bailey 167-168
K&P 318-322.
If you would like to view the entire text of "Newes from Scotland," click on:
<https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/606514874> then click on View eBook on the
right side of the screen.
- M 10/30 Edinburgh, Scotland: Agnes Sampson
See above for accessing "Newes from Scotland"
- W 11/1 **CLASS CANCELLED; STUDENTS WORK ON THEIR BOOK REPORTS!**
- M 11/6 Demonic Possession: Loudun, France
Levack 197-198, 237-240
K&P 355-356, plus pdf on Canvas
- BOOK REPORTS DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM.
EMAIL DIRECTLY TO DR. BILINKOFF AS A WORD FILE OR PDF,
DO NOT SEND VIA CANVAS**
- W 11/8 Demonic Possession: Salem, Massachusetts
Levack 202-203, 221-223, [204-221]
Bailey 168-169; K&P [367-370], 436-437, plus pdf on Canvas

- M 11/13 The Making of the Faust Legend
Levack 33-37; Bailey [96-106], 114-115
Acts of the Apostles 8:9-24 [for link to New Testament see syllabus entry for 8/30]
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Prologue, Act I, scene i
[David Wooten, Introduction, vi-xxiv]
- W 11/15 *Doctor Faustus*, Act I, scene iii, Act II, scenes I, iii
- M 11/20 *Doctor Faustus*, Act V, scenes i-ii, Epilogue [Acts III, IV optional for all students]
The Legend Now and Then
- W 11/22 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**
- M 11/27 The Decline of the Witch Hunt
Levack 56-62, 175-181, 251-256, [230-256]; Bailey 170-174
Excerpts from the following writers: Johann Weyer, Cornelius Loos (among cases from Trier), Reginald Scot, Michel de Montaigne, Friedrich Spee, and Balthasar Bekker: K&P 280-289, 314-317, 394-401, 402-406, 425-429, 429-435

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM ASSIGNED

- W 11/29 Persistence of Belief?
Persistence of Persecution: Future "Witch Hunts?"
- M 12/4 **TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM.
EMAIL DIRECTLY TO DR. BILINKOFF AS A WORD FILE OR PDF,
DO NOT SEND VIA CANVAS.**

STUDENTS MAY SEND THEIR EXAMS EARLIER IF THEY WISH.

GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** I expect 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 have a compelling reason for missing a class, please let me know ahead of time or notify me by email. 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 accrue more than 3 unexcused absences, you may be dropped at the discretion of the instructor. Students who miss the first three 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 inform all 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. Do not pack up your belongings until the class period has ended; this can be very distracting. Make every effort to use the washroom facilities before the class period begins. I communicate with classes or individual students by email; therefore **it is essential that you check your UNCG email at least once a day.**
3. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Cellphones must be silenced during the class period and placed on students' desks. Students may use laptops or phones but only to access primary source materials. An Honor System is in effect! **Texting during class is extremely rude and demonstrates disrespect for one's classmates and instructors.**
4. **COURSE MATERIALS:** The History Department may not be able to provide photocopies for students due to budget constraints. For this reason, I will be using Canvas to project handouts, primary source documents, and supplementary materials such as maps onto the screens during class periods. However, I **strongly suggest** that you download and print out the course handouts. That way you can underline or highlight significant passages, take notes, and keep them together in order in a folder or binder. Students have found this method **extremely helpful** in assuring their success in this challenging course. 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, which is also posted on Canvas and on the History Department's homepage. We will be going over these materials together in class.

5. **GRADES:** Grades will be based primarily upon a series of take-home assignments, which I will describe in greater detail during the semester. All assignments must be word-processed, double-spaced, spell-checked, using a 12-point font and standard 1" margins. I look for correctness and clarity of exposition in students' written work, as well as a demonstration of comprehension 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 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: Response Paper= 20%, Take-Home Midterm Exam=20%, Book Report=25%, Take-Home Final Exam=25%, Participation=10%. By submitting an assignment, each student is acknowledging their understanding and commitment to **UNCG'S Academic Honor Policy** on all work for the course. For an excellent explanation of plagiarism and how to avoid committing this serious violation see: writingcenter.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Plagiarism.pdf

6. **RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** If for **ANY** reason you are unable to send in an assignment on time it is **YOUR** responsibility to contact me beforehand so we can make alternative arrangements. Alas, despite years of teaching this course 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 the 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. The last day to drop courses without academic penalty this semester is Friday October 6. But if you are interested in learning about a fascinating (if deeply troubling) period of history and improving your reading, writing, and analytical skills, please stay in this class!

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]

HIS 315 focuses on LGs 1 and 2, and all assignments are designed to gauge students' engagement with them.

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

Would you like to learn more about UNCG's Department of History and its activities? See:

Department Website: <http://his.uncg.edu>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uncghistory1/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uncgdepartmentofhistory>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmAMqIzKR_YmoHq4A

