

History 315 Witchcraft and Magic in European History

Spring Semester 2005

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50 McIver 225

Jodi Bilinkoff McIver 211

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

Phone Numbers:

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Required Reading for Course:

Jeffrey Russell, A History of Witchcraft

Alan C. Kors and Edward Peters, eds., Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700 [K&P]

Christopher Marlowe, Dr. Faustus

Selected Documents on e-reserve and hard copies are available at the reserve desk at Jackson Library. The books have also been placed on reserve.

M	1/10	Introduction to Course
W	1/12	What is Magic? Russell 8-29
F	1/14	Myth, Magic, and Law in Greco-Roman Antiquity Russell 29-36
M	1/17	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY
W	1/19	Making Histories
F	1/21	The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry K&P 359-367
M	1/24	Religion and Politics in the Roman World
W	1/26	Christian Origins
F	1/28	To Be Announced
M	1/31	Christianity and the Concept of Evil K&P 6-12; Mark 5:1-21 (reserve)

W 2/2 The Book of Revelation (reserve]

F 2/4 Book of Revelation: Discussion
1 PAGE RESPONSE + 3 QUESTIONS DUE

M 2/7 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe
Russell 37-52; K&P 41-44; "Pope Gregory's Letter to
Mellitus" (reserve)

W 2/9 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe
Russell 52-54; K&P 60-63

F 2/11 Heresy in Medieval Europe
Russell 55-63; K&P 58-59, 78-81

M 2/14 Medical Explanations

W 2/16 Heresy in Medieval Europe
Russell 63-71; K&P 87-90, 103-105, 169-172

F 2/18 Christians and the Jewish "Heresy"

M 2/21 The Malleus Maleficarum: Establishing Authority
K&P 112-114, 176-180

W 2/23 The Malleus Maleficarum
K&P 181-229
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM ASSIGNED

F 2/25 The Malleus Maleficarum: Discussion

M 2/28 The Reformation
K&P 259-260

W 3/2 Reformers and the Devil
K&P 261-270
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE

F 3/4 Law, Politics, State-Building
Russell 72-89; K&P 290-302

M 3/7-F 3/11 SPRING BREAK

M 3/14 Trials: Chelmsford
Russell 109-118; K&P 275-277, 302-308

W 3/16 Trials: Chelmsford
K&P 302-308
LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

F 3/18 Trials: Suzanne Gaudry Revisited
K&P 359-367

M 3/21 Trials: Marie Cornu
K&P 345-348

W 3/23 Trials: Scotland
K&P 318-322

F 3/25 GOOD FRIDAY

M 3/28 Trials: Bamberg
K&P 348-353

W 3/30 Trials: Discussion
1 PAGE RESPONSE + 3 QUESTIONS DUE

F 4/1 Demonic Possession: Loudun
K&P 355-359
"The Possessions at Loudun, 1634" (reserve)

M 4/4 Possession and Puritanism: Salem
Russell 103-108, 118-121
K&P 367-370, 436-437
"The Salem Witch Trials, 1692" (reserve)

W 4/6 The Making of the Faust Legend
Acts 8:9-25 (reserve); Russell 55-58;
"Of the Knight Henry" (reserve)

F 4/8 Marlowe Dr Faustus

M 4/11 Marlowe Dr Faustus

W 4/13 Marlowe Dr Faustus

F 4/15 The Legend: Now and Then
1 PAGE RESPONSE + 3 QUESTIONS DUE

M 4/18 The Decline of Magic: Science
Russell 122-131

W 4/20 The Decline of Magic: Skepticism and Toleration
K&P 280-289, 314-317

F 4/22 The Decline of Magic: Skepticism and Toleration
K&P 392-394, 402-406, 429-435

M 4/25 Scientific Explanations?

W 4/27 Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories

F 4/29 Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories/Neo-Paganism
Russell 148-171
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM ASSIGNED

M 5/2 Persistence of Persecution: Modern "Witchhunts," or
Who will be Next?

F 5/6 TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S
MAILBOX IN HISTORY DEPT OFFICE (MCIVER 221)
BY 2:00 PM. YOU MAY HAND IT IN EARLIER IF YOU WISH.

GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. 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 consistently come on time and stay until the end of the class period, please drop the course. I take attendance and class participation (in the form of questions, comments, mental alertness and intellectual engagement with and curiosity about the material) into account when formulating final grades. 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. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 and hand in a hard copy. I am looking here 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.

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. 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 I will not accept late assignments. See front page of syllabus for ways of contacting me.

5. If you do not think you will be able to abide by these responsibilities, please drop the course so that someone else can take it. The last day to drop the course without academic penalty is Wednesday March 16.

