

## HIS 315 WITCHCRAFT AND MAGIC IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Spring Semester 2012  
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:15 PM  
MHRA 2209

Jodi Bilinkoff  
Office: 2127 MHRA  
Office Hours: MW 1:00-1:45 PM and by appointment

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

History Department Office: 336-334-5992  
Home/Voice Mail: 919-960-3636 (before 9:00 PM please)  
E-Mail: [jodi\\_bilinkoff@uncg.edu](mailto:jodi_bilinkoff@uncg.edu)

### REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Michael D. Bailey, *Magic and Superstition in Europe*  
Brian Levack, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)  
Alan C. Kors and Edward Peters, eds. *Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) [K&P]  
Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore. Internet purchases will often result in considerable savings. The books have also been placed on reserve at Jackson Library. Selected readings are available via e-reserves.

M	1/9	Introduction to Course What is Magic? Levack 4-12; Bailey 1-7
W	1/11	Myth and Magic in Greco-Roman Antiquity Bailey 9-35
M	1/16	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY
W	1/18	Student Introductions The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry K&P 359-367

- M 1/23 Religion and Politics in the Roman World  
Christian Origins  
Bailey 43-59  
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER + 3 QUESTIONS ASSIGNED
- W 1/25 Christianity and the Problem of Evil  
Bailey 38-42, 46-53; K&P 6-12  
Mark 5:1-21 (e-reserves)  
Book of Revelation (e-reserves)
- M 1/30 Book of Revelation: Discussion  
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER + 3 QUESTIONS DUE
- W 2/1 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe  
Bailey 59-70; K&P 41-44  
"Pope Gregory's Letter to Mellitus" (e-reserves)
- M 2/6 Christians and Pagans: the Canon Episcopi  
Bailey 70-75; K&P 60-63  
What is Heresy?  
Bailey 96-119
- W 2/8 Heresy in Medieval Europe  
K&P 58-59, 78-81
- M 2/13 Demonology  
Bailey 119-140; Levack 32-51  
K&P 87-90, 103-105, 112-114, 169-172
- W 2/15 The Malleus Maleficarum  
Levack 51-61; K&P 176-180; 181-229
- M 2/20 The Malleus Maleficarum: Discussion  
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM ASSIGNED
- W 2/22 The Reformation  
Levack 109-120; Bailey 193-200; K&P 259-260
- M 2/27 Martin Luther and the Devil  
Levack 120-130; K&P 261-265  
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE

- W 2/19 Witchcraft, the Law, and the State  
Levack 13-24, 74-103; Bailey 35-38, 110-119  
K&P 290-302
- F 3/2 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES
- M 3/5 SPRING BREAK  
W 3/7
- M 3/12 Trials: Chelmsford  
Levack 141-165, 217-223; Bailey 166-167  
K&P 302-308
- W 3/14 Suzanne Gaudry and Marie Cornu  
Bailey 141-152, 162, 174-177  
K&P 359-367; 345-348
- M 3/19 Scotland  
Levack, 65-67, 175-188; Bailey 167-168  
K&P 318-322
- W 3/21 Bamberg  
Levack 188-199; K&P 348-353  
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER + 3 QUESTIONS ASSIGNED
- M 3/26 Demonic Possession: Loudun and Salem  
Levack 184-186; Bailey 168-169  
K&P 355-359; 367-370; 436-437  
"The Possessions at Loudun, 1634" (e-reserves)  
"The Salem Witch Trials, 1692" (e-reserves)
- W 3/28 Trials: Discussion  
1-2 PAGE RESPONSE PAPER + 3 QUESTIONS DUE
- M 4/2 The Making of the Faust Legend  
Levack 37; Bailey 114-115  
Acts 8:9-25 (e-reserves)  
"Of the Knight Henry" (e-reserves)  
Russell 55-58 (e-reserves)  
Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus* Act I, scene 1
- W 4/4 *Dr. Faustus*

- M 4/9 *Dr. Faustus*  
The Legend Now and Then: Discussion
- W 4/11 The Decline of Magic  
Levack 61-65, 128-130, 206-213, 253-281; Bailey 170-174  
K&P 280-289, 314-317, 392-394, 402-406, 429-435
- M 4/16 Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories
- W 4/18 Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories  
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM ASSIGNED
- M 4/23 Persistence of Persecution: Future Witch Hunts?  
Levack 289-294, 299-305

FRIDAY 4/27 TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S MAILBOX IN MHRA 2118A OR IN FRONT OF HER OFFICE (2127 MHRA) 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 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.
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 the other students I will require them to change their seats. I do not allow 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 turned off and placed out of sight during the class period.
3. Please read the material specified for a given class period or periods before coming to class. It is **essential** to keep 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 at the History Department 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 and 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 I will describe in greater detail during the course of the semester. All assignments must be word-processed, double-spaced, spell-checked and use a 12-point font and standard 1" margins. 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 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. 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 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.

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 courses without academic penalty is Friday March 2.