

## EUH3180 Medieval Magic and Witchcraft

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**Instructor:** Dr. Bonnie Effros                      **Class:** Mon/Wed/Fri 1:55-2:45 pm  
**Office:** 200 Walker Hall                              **Classroom:** Keene-Flint 111  
**Telephone:** 1-352-392-1096                      **Email:** [beffros@ufl.edu](mailto:beffros@ufl.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed 12:30-1:30 pm and by appointment.

This course will assess the social, religious, and political functions of the supernatural in late antique, medieval, and early modern European society (400-1700 CE). Through primary and secondary readings, lectures, discussions, and films, students will gain a better understanding of the role played by magic, witchcraft, and the occult in shaping pre-modern European views of the cosmos. We will also study the ways in which the condemnation of demonic power existed side by side with miraculous tales of the deeds of saints, alchemical research, and magical Arthurian romances. Another important aspect of the course will be to address how accusations of magic and witchcraft and resulting persecutions marginalized particularly vulnerable individuals and social groups in Europe from the fourth to seventeenth centuries.

Since we will be covering well over a thousand years in the course of the semester, the readings and assignments for the course will be rigorous. It is thus advised strongly that students keep current with the work so that they can understand lecture material and discuss the readings critically in sessions devoted to these topics. Attendance is also crucial to success in this course, as much of the in-class time will focus on materials not covered in the readings.

**22 August**                      **Introduction to the Course: Studying the Supernatural from a Historical Perspective**

READING: Alan Charles Kors and Edward Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe 400-1700: A Documentary History*, second edition (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001), pp. 1-40.

**24 August**                      **Magic in Ancient Egypt and Greece**

READING: Michael Bailey, *Magic and Superstition in Europe: A Concise History from Antiquity to the Present* (Lanham : Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Incorporated, 2007), pp. 1-42.

**26 August**                      **Magic in the Ancient Rome**

READING: Electronic Handout - Accusations of Magic in the Greek and Roman Worlds

**29 August**                      **\*\* Handout of Take-Home Midterm \*\***  
**Magic, Sorcery, and Satan in the Bible**

READING: Electronic Handout - Biblical References to Magic, Sorcery, and Satan

- 31 August**                    **Christian Fathers on Demons and Hell**  
 READING: Valerie I. J. Flint, *The Rise of Magic in Early Medieval Europe* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991), pp. 3-35. [Available on electronic reserve.]  
 Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp.41-50.  
 Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 53-59.  
 Electronic Handout – Augustine of Hippo and Magic  
 St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on Colossians, Homily 8 @ <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/230308.htm>
- 2 September**                **Imperial Paranoia: Enemies as Sorcerers**  
 READING: Electronic Handout – Accusations of Magic in Imperial Rome  
 Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 43-53.
- 5 September**                **Labor Day Holiday – No Class**
- 7 September**                **Pagan Magic in a Time of Christian Conversion**  
 READING: Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 59-67.  
 Electronic Handout – Excerpts from the *Life of Saint Martin*  
 Martin of Braga, “Reforming the Rustics,” in *Iberian Fathers: Martin of Braga, Paschius of Dumium, Leander of Seville*, translated by Claude W. Barlow, The Fathers of the Church (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1969), pp. 71-85. [Available on electronic reserve.]
- 9 September**                **Study Day – Work on Take-Home Midterm (No formal course meeting)**
- 12 September**              **Magic versus Miracles: Did Clerics Embrace Magic?**  
 Electronic Handout – Magic and Miracles in the Early Middle Ages  
 Electronic Handout – Early Medieval Incantations
- 14 September**              **\*\* Take-Home Midterm Due \*\***  
**\*\* Assignment of Film Critique \*\***  
**Physicians and Alternative Healers in the Early Medieval West**
- 16 September**              **The Re-Emergence of Sorcery in the Central Middle Ages**  
 READING: Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 66-91.  
 Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 58-72.
- 19 September**              **The Crusades and the Cult of Saints**  
 READING: Guibert of Nogent, *Monodies and On the Relics of Saints: The Autobiography and A Manifesto of a French Monk from the Time of the Crusades*, ed. and trans. by Jay Rubenstein and Joseph

McAlhany (Harmondsworth: Penguin Paperback, 2011), introduction and prologue.

- 21 September**      **Debating the Abuses of and Trade in Saints' Relics**  
READING:      Guibert of Nogent, *On the Relics of Saints*, Books 1-4.
- 23 September**      **Development of an Apparatus of Persecution**  
READING:      Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 72-86.  
Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 101-125.
- 26 September**      **Film Presentation: "The Sorceress" (first part)**  
READING:      Jean-Claude Schmitt, *The Holy Greyhound: Guinefort, Healer of Children Since the Thirteenth Century*, translated by Martin Thom (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), pp. 1-35.  
[Available on electronic reserve.]
- 28 September**      **Film Presentation: "The Sorceress" (second part)**  
**Medieval Witchcraft: An Issue of Social Status?**
- 30 September**      **\*\* Film Critique Due\*\***  
**Thomas Aquinas on Sorcery**  
READING:      Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 87-111.
- 3 October**      **\*\* Handout of In-Class Midterm Study Guide \*\***  
**The Gathering Storm: Theologians on Demonic Activities**  
READING:      Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 112-148.
- 5 October**      **Astrology, Alchemy and the Occult Sciences**  
READING:      Chrétien de Troyes, *Cligès*, translated by Ruth Harwood Cline (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000), pp. ix-xxvii; 1-69.  
Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 91-101.
- 7 October**      **\*\* First In-Class Midterm \*\***
- 10 October**      **Courtly Culture and Magic: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**  
READING:      Chrétien de Troyes, *Cligès*, translated by Ruth Harwood Cline (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000), pp. 69-196.
- 12 October**      **Clerical Misogyny and the Witches' Sabbath**  
READING:      Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 149-175.
- 14 October**      **Homecoming Holiday – No Class**
- 17 October**      **The Politics of Late Medieval Religious Practice and Witchcraft: The Trial of Joan of Arc**  
READING:      Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp.126-140.

Medieval Sourcebook: The Trial of Joan of Arc  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/joanofarc-trial.html>

- 19 October**                    **In Search of Authentic Witnesses to Witchcraft**  
READING: Carlo Ginzburg, *The Night Battles: Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, translated by John and Anne C. Tedeschi, reprint edition (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), pp.1-68.
- 21 October**                    **\*\* Assign Roles for Mock Inquisitorial Trial \*\***  
   **“Malleus Maleficarum”: Its Applications and Consequences**  
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 176-229.
- 24 October**                    **The Reliability of Confessions Extracted under Torture**  
READING: Ginzburg, *The Night Battles*, pp. 69-98.
- 26 October**                    **Survival of Ancient Fertility Cults?**  
READING: Ginzburg, *The Night Battles*, pp. 99-145.
- 28 October**                    **Renaissance Humanists, the Occult, and Witchcraft**  
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 230-258.  
Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 179-193.
- 31 October**                    **Mock Inquisitorial Trial**
- 2 November**                    **Martin Luther, John Calvin and Witches**  
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 259-273.  
Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 193-200.
- 4 November**                    **Film Presentation: “Mother Joan of Angels” (first part)**  
READING: The Nuns of Loudun  
<http://www.nd.edu/~dharley/witchcraft/Loudun.html>  
Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 273-280; 355-359.
- 7 November**                    **Film Presentation: “Mother Joan of Angels” (second part)**
- 9 November**                    **The Risk of False Accusations**  
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 280-329.  
Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 141-161.
- 11 November**                    **Veterans’ Day Holiday – No Class**
- 14 November**                    **The Trial of Tempel Anneke: The Context**  
READING: Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 161-177.  
Peter Morton and Barbara Dähms, ed. and trans., *The Trial of Tempel Anneke: Records of a Witchcraft Trial in Brunswick*,

*Germany, 1663* (Toronto: UTP Press, 2005), pp. ix-xlv.

- 16 November**            **The Sources: Reconstructing the Trial of Tempel Anneke**  
READING: Morton and Dähms, ed., *The Trial of Tempel Anneke*, pp. 3-70.
- 18 November**            **The Outcome of the Trial of Tempel Anneke**  
READING: Morton and Dähms, ed., *The Trial of Tempel Anneke*, pp. 71-155.
- 21 November**            **The Prosecution of Witchcraft in New England**  
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 330-355; 359-390;  
436-437.
- 23 November**            **Thanksgiving Holiday - No Class**
- 25 November**            **Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**
- 28 November**            **Science and the Decline of Magic: Skepticism on the Rise**  
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 392-448.
- 30 November**            **The End of the “Witchcraze”**  
READING: Bailey, *Magic and Superstition*, pp. 206-248.
- 2 December**            **Modern Witchcraft?**  
READING: Randall Styers, *Making Magic: Religion, Magic, and Science in the Modern World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 25-68.
- 5 December**            **Semester Review**
- 7 December**            **\*\* Second In-Class Midterm Exam \*\***

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **TAKE-HOME MIDTERM**

On **29 August**, you will receive the assignment for a take-home midterm. It will be due on **14 September** and will count as 25% of the course grade. It will consist of a few short primary documents related to our discussions of the early Middle Ages which you will read and assess in a five- to seven page paper. Any essay found to contain plagiarized material (whether from a printed source, another person, work for a previous course, or the internet) or evidence of cheating will receive an automatic 0 and will be prosecuted in accordance with university policy toward academic honesty. Late essays will only be accepted without penalty with *prior* permission of the instructor; otherwise, 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted each day (including weekends) that the essay is late.

### **FILM CRITIQUE**

On **14 September**, students will be assigned a two- to five-page paper that critically assesses one or two of a number of approved films depicting magic, witchcraft or the

occult in the medieval or early modern periods. Due on **30 September**, the film critique will count as 10% of the course grade. The policy on this assignment will be the same as on the take-home midterm (see above).

### **FIRST IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

On **7 October**, there will be an in-class midterm exam with three identifications (chosen from five options) and one essay (chosen from three) based on major themes covered in the course. This assignment will be worth 25% of the course grade. To help students prepare for the exam, a study guide will be distributed in class on **3 October**. A formal note from a physician will be necessary to excuse an absence from this exam. Only one make-up midterm will be scheduled, and attendance at this scheduled time is mandatory for a grade on the exam. The policy on this assignment will be the same as on the take-home midterm (see above).

### **SECOND IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

On **7 December**, there will be an in-class midterm exam with three identifications (chosen from five options) and one essay (chosen from three) based on major themes covered in the course. This assignment will count as 25% of the course grade. The identifications will cover only the period subsequent to the first in-class midterm, whereas the essays will address comprehensive themes from the course. To help students prepare for the exam, a review session will be organized in the last two weeks of class. A formal note from a physician or proof of exams scheduled simultaneously will be necessary to excuse an absence from this exam. Only one make-up exam will be scheduled, and attendance at this scheduled time is mandatory. The policy on this assignment will be the same as on the take-home midterm (see above).

### **PARTICIPATION**

Class participation (15%) will be judged on the basis of *active* contribution to the ongoing discussion of the material read for the course as well as consistent attendance in lectures and discussions, including the mock inquisitorial proceedings on **31 October**. Unexcused absences from a significant number of course meetings (three or more) will be grounds for automatic failure in the course.

### **TEXTS FOR COURSE**

The main readings for this course are available at the university bookstore, and, when possible, on library reserve. Supplemental readings are available on the web or electronic reserve. I look forward to a stimulating semester, and encourage you to contact me by email or come to office hours if you have any questions on the readings or assignments.

### **GRADING**

Grades will be awarded according to individual achievement and not in response to a set "curve." Thus, high grades by one student will not lower those of any other student. The instructors reserve the right to exercise professional judgment and discretion in adjusting marks according to circumstances leading to a mark, such as in the case of improving or deteriorating performance, and consistent class participation or a high proportion of absences and lack of preparedness for class. Students dissatisfied with a grade on a

particular assignment should consult first with the teaching assistant after reading the relevant comments; if the issue remains unresolved, they may then consult the course instructor with the understanding that she reserves the right to raise or lower the grade as deemed appropriate. Queries regarding specific grades must be addressed within a month of having the assignment returned.

Grading scale:	93.3-100% = A	73.3-76.6% = C
	90-93.2% = A-	*70-73.2% = C-
	86.7-89.9% = B+	66.7-69.9% = D+
	83.3-86.6% = B	63.3-66.6% = D
	80-83.2% = B-	60-63.2% = D-
	76.7-79.9% = C+	Below 60 = E

\* Please note that a grade of C- does not count as a passing grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or basic distribution requirements.

Grade Values for Conversion May 11, 2009 and After												
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E, I, NG, S-U, WF
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	.67	0.00

**UF GRADING POLICY:** <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/staff/grades.html>

**UF ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES**

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php#academichonestyguidelines>

All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines which have been accepted by the University. The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to act with integrity. Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and a student being subject to the sanctions in paragraph XIV of the Student Code of Conduct. The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Guidelines (University of Florida Rule 6C1-4.017).

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, or telephone 392-1575.

The University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.