

HH337C

## The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe

Fall 2018 • T/Th 1:30-2:45

### *Course Description*

The course is an upper division history elective for majors and non-majors. Through the study of the historical phenomenon of witch-hunting in early modern Europe, students will become familiar with various approaches to historical study including anthropology, gender, law, and microhistory. Students will produce a substantial research paper, and will work with the professor individually in the research and revising stages. In the last weeks of class, students will synthesize their understanding of the social and legal elements of witch-hunting and witch-trials by staging their own mock witch trial.

### *Books*

Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006) ISBN: 978-0300119831

Brian Levack, *The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe*, fourth edition (New York: Routledge, 2015) ISBN: 978-1138808102

Alan Kors and Edward Peters, ed., *Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000) ISBN: 978-0812217513

*\*\* In the second week of class, there will be a book-check as part of your grade. You are responsible for having all your books purchased by then.*

*\*\* Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard. Please print them out and bring them to class.*

### *Assessment*

- **Participation** (10%) – *including attendance and participation in class discussion and bringing your readings to class each day.*
- **Presentations/ Leading Discussion** (15%) – *you will be responsible for leading discussion on the readings two times during the semester. More details to follow.*
- **Short Paper** (10%) – *a short essay, due before 6 week exams.*
- **Midterm Exam** (15%) – *during the 8<sup>th</sup> week of class.*
- **Witch-Trial** (10%) – *self- and peer-evaluated on grasp of content, preparation, contribution, and participation.*
- **Final paper** (20%) – *12 pages, on your choice of topic, chosen in consultation with the professor.*

- **Final Exam** (20%)

### *Course Calendar*

- Tuesday, Aug. 21      ***Introduction***  
In class: “Are you now, or have you ever been a werewolf?”  
*Washington Post, 1994.*
- Thursday, Aug. 23      ***Magic, Religion, and Science***  
Michael Bailey, *Magic: The Basics*, pp. 8-23.  
Selections from the *Canon Episcopi* (Regino of Prüm), in Kors and Peters, pp. 60-63.  
Selections from Master Gratian, *The Decretum*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 72-77.
- Tuesday, Aug. 28      ***Social and Cultural Context of Witchcraft***  
Levack, pp. 184-191 only (including the maps).  
Selections from Robin Briggs, *Witches and Neighbors*, pp. 17-59.
- Thursday, Aug. 30      ***Foundations for Witch Belief***  
Levack, Chp. 2  
Selections from Johannes Nider, *The Formicarius*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 155-159.  
\*\* Discussion Day
- Tuesday, Sept. 4      ***No class – Monday Schedule***
- Thursday, Sept. 6      ***The Logic of Witch Belief***  
Selections Heinrich Kramer and Jacob Sprenger, *Malleus Maleficarum*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 180-229.  
\*\* Discussion Day
- Tuesday, Sept. 11      ***Anthropology and Witchcraft***  
E.E. Evans-Pritchard, *Witchcraft among the Azande*, pp. 1-7, 10-13, 18-25.  
Carlo Ginzburg, “The Inquisitor as Anthropologist,” pp. 156-164 (Blackboard)  
In class: “Footnotes made easy”
- Thursday, Sept. 13      ***Purity and Danger***  
Selections from R. I. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society*, pp. 94-116.  
\*\* Discussion Day
- Tuesday, Sept. 18      ***Criminal Procedure***

Levack, Chp. 3.  
*The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 359-367.  
*The Trial of Françoise Camont in Lorraine* (Blackboard)

Thursday, Sept. 20

***Law and the Use of Torture***

Christina Lerner, "Crimen Exceptum? The Crime of Witchcraft in Europe", in *Crime and the Law* ed. V. A. Gatrell et. al (London: Europa, 1980): 49-75.

*The Confession of Niclas Fiedler at Trier* (Blackboard)

\*\* Discussion Day

**Short Paper due Sunday, Sept. 23 by 5pm**

Tuesday, Sept. 25

***Witchcraft and Reformation***

Levack, Chp. 4

*The Trial of Mari Cornu*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 345-348.

Thursday, Sept. 27

***Triggers***

Levack, Chp. 6

*The Prosecutions at Bamberg*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 348-353.

*The Prosecutions at Würzburg*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 353-354.

\*\* Discussion Day

Tuesday, Oct. 2

***Diabolical Witches***

Johann Weyer, *De Praestigiis Daemonum*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 280-289.

Jean Bodin, *On the Demon Mania of Witches*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 290-302.

Selections from Pierre de Lancre, *The Inconstancy of Witches* (Blackboard)

Thursday, Oct. 4

**Midterm exam**

Tuesday, Oct. 9

***Witchcraft and Gender***

Alison Rowlands, "Not 'the Usual Suspects'? Male Witches, Witchcraft and Masculinities in early modern Europe", in *Witchcraft and Masculinities in early modern Europe* ed. Alison Rowlands (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009): 1-30. (Blackboard)

Thursday, Oct. 11

***Witchcraft and Gender***

Willem de Blècourt, "The Making of the Female Witch: Reflections on Witchcraft and Gender in the early modern period", *Gender and History* 12.2 (July 2000): 287-309. (Blackboard)

\*\* Discussion Day

- Tuesday, Oct. 16                    ***Witchcraft in Germany***  
Roper, *Witch Craze*, skim pp. 45-66, read pp. 82-103.
- Thursday, Oct. 18                    ***Witchcraft in Germany***  
Roper, *Witch Craze*, pp. 104-159.  
\*\* Discussion Day
- Tuesday, Oct. 23                    ***Witches, Peasants, and Inquisitors***  
Carlo Ginzburg, *Night Battles*, pp. 1-14, 22-32. (Blackboard)
- Thursday, Oct. 25                    ***Witch-finders and Familiars***  
Documents on English and Scottish witch-hunting (Blackboard)  
\*\* Discussion Day
- Tuesday, Oct. 30                    ***Witchcraft in the New World***  
Documents from John Chuchiak IV, ed., *The Inquisition in New Spain* (Blackboard)  
Selections from Fernando Cervantes, *The Devil in the New World* (Blackboard)  
\*\* Discussion Day
- Thursday, Nov. 1                    ***No class – I will be out of town at a conference***
- Tuesday, Nov. 6                    ***Witchcraft and the Spanish Inquisition***  
James Amelang, “Between Doubt and Discretion” (Blackboard)  
“Confession of María de Endara” (Blackboard)
- Thursday, Nov. 8                    ***Skepticism and Doubt***  
Michel de Montaigne, “Concerning Cripples,” in Kors and Peters, pp. 402-406.  
Alonso de Salazar Frias, in Kors and Peters, pp. 407-419.  
Friedreich Spee, *Cautio Criminalis*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 425-429.  
Balthasar Bekker, *Enchanted World*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 429-435.  
\*\*Discussion Day
- Tuesday, Nov. 13                    ***Late to the Game***  
Selections from Mary Beth Norton, *In the Devil’s Snare*, pp. 3-12 (Blackboard)  
Documents from the Salem Witch Hunts (Blackboard)  
*Recantation of the Salem Jurors*, in Kors and Peters, pp. 436-437.  
In class: Distribute witch-trial materials
- Thursday, Nov. 15                    ***No Class – Meetings to discuss final papers***

Tuesday, Nov. 20

***Modern Witch-hunts***

Arthur Miller, "Why I Wrote the Crucible"

In class: Watch Arthur Miller's, *The Crucible* (1994)

Thursday, Nov. 22

**No Class – Turkey Day**

Tuesday, Nov. 27

***Modern Witch-hunts***

Ellen Schrecker, "McCarthyism: Political Repression and the Fear of Communism," *Social Research* 71.4 (Winter 2004): pp. 1041-1086. (Blackboard)

In class: Finish watching Arthur Miller's, *The Crucible* (1994)

\*\* Discussion Day

Thursday, Nov. 29

***A Witch on Trial***

No readings: read for final papers

In class: Prepare arguments for witch trial (continue over the weekend)

Tuesday, Dec. 4

***A Witch on Trial***

No readings: read for final papers

In class: Put the class witch on trial

Thursday, Dec. 6

***Conclusion***

"The History of the Satanic Panic in the US – and why it's not over yet," <https://www.vox.com/2016/10/30/13413864/satanic-panic-ritual-abuse-history-explained>

\*\* Discussion: ALL – post questions/reflections on Blackboard

**Research Paper Due, Sunday Dec. 9 by 5pm**

**Final Exam – check day and time**