Medieval Magic and Witchcraft  
EUH 3931. Section 4082 – Fall 2011

Instructor:  Dr. Bonnie Effros  
Class Meetings:  Tues 11:45 am-1:40 pm/Thurs 12:50 am-1:40 pm)
Office:  200 Walker Hall  
Classroom:  Flint 119
Telephone:  1-352-392-1096  
Email:  beffros@ufl.edu

Office Hours:  Tues/Thurs 10-11 am 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 firmer 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 Arthurian romances filled magic. 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 sections. 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.

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

25 August  Magic in the Ancient World: Pagan and Biblical Approaches  
Electronic Handouts - Accusations of Magic in the Greek and Roman Worlds/ Biblical References to Magic, Sorcery, and Satan

30 August  Christian Fathers on Demons and Hell  
Kors and Peters, eds., Witchcraft in Europe, pp. 41-50.
Bailey, Magic and Superstition, pp. 53-59. (s.n.p.)
1 September
** Handout of Take-Home Midterm **
Imperial Paranoia: Enemies as Sorcerers
READING: Electronic Handout – Accusations of Magic in Imperial Rome

6 September
Pagan Magic in a Time of Christian Conversion
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,

8 September
Physicians and Healers in the Early Medieval West
READING: Electronic Handout – Early Medieval Incantations

13 September
Magic versus Miracles: Gregory of Tours. Did Clerics Embrace Magic?
Electronic Handout – Magic and Miracles in the Early Middle Ages

15 September
The Re-Emergence of Sorcery in the Central Middle Ages

20 September
Development of an Apparatus of Persecution
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 72-86.

22 September
** Take-Home Midterm Due **
Thomas Aquinas on Sorcery
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 87-111.

27 September
** Assignment of Film Critique **
Film Presentation: “The Sorceress”

29 September
Medieval Witchcraft: An Issue of Social Status? (s.n.p.)

4 October  
**The Gathering Storm: Theologians on Demonic Activities**  

6 October  
**Astrology, Alchemy and the Occult Sciences**  

11 October  
**Courtly Culture and Magic: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**  

13 October  
**Film Critique Due**  
**Handout of In-Class Midterm Study Guide**  
**Clerical Misogyny and the Witches’ Sabbath**  
READING: Kors and Peters, eds., *Witchcraft in Europe*, pp. 149-175.

18 October  
**The Politics of Late Medieval Religious Practice and Witchcraft: The Trial of Joan of Arc**  
Medieval Sourcebook: The Trial of Joan of Arc  
[http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/joanofarc-trial.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/joanofarc-trial.html)

20 October  
**First In-Class Midterm**

25 October  
**In Search of Authentic Witnesses to Witchcraft**  

27 October  
**Assign Roles for Mock Inquisitorial Trial**  
**“Malleus Maleficarum”: Its Applications and Consequences**  

1 November  
**The Survival of Ancient Fertility Cults?**  

3 November  
**Renaissance Humanists, the Occult, and Witchcraft**  
8 November       Mock Inquisitorial Trial

10 November       Martin Luther, John Calvin and Witches

15 November       Film Presentation: “Mother Joan of Angels”
                   READING: The Nuns of Loudun
                   http://www.nd.edu/~dharley/witchcraft/Loudun.html

17 November       The Risk of False Accusations

22 November       The Geography of Witchcraft and Trials

24 November       Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

29 November       Comparing Tempel Anneke’s Trial to Prosecutions in New England

1 December       Science and the Decline of Magic: Skepticism and the End of the Witchcraze

6 December       ** Second In-Class Midterm Exam **

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM
On 1 September, you will receive the assignment for a take-home midterm. It will be
due on 22 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 plagia-
rized 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 27 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 13 October, 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 20 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 13 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 3 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 8 November. Unexcused absences from a significant number of course meetings (three or more) will be grounds for automatic failure in the course.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E, I, NG, S-U, WF</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UF GRADING POLICY: [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/staff/grades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/staff/grades.html)

UF ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES
[http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php#academichonestyguidelines](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).

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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: UF University Counseling and Mental Health Services
[http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)