

EUH3180 Medieval Magic

INSTRUCTOR

Danielle Gibbs Barrientos

EMAIL

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CLASSROOM LOCATION

Keene-Flint 0117

OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday 12:30 – 2:30pm

COURSE OUTCOMES:

*Demonstrate historical knowledge about the magical phenomena in medieval Europe

*Develop skills in historical writing and methods

*Examine, analyze, present, write, and discuss textual and non-textual primary sources, historical debates and arguments.



COURSE OVERVIEW

This course meets **Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm in FLI 0117**. This course explores the various forms of magic and how it was understood, defined, and practiced during the medieval period. We will examine the formation and the social uses of categories, the development of relevant rituals and traditions, and the scapegoating process through which groups – such as the leper, the Jew, the heretic, and eventually the witch – were identified or created. Beginning in late antiquity, the course will trace the rise of cultural, religious, and philosophical traditions and beliefs that shaped medieval attitudes towards magic, superstition, and the ‘witch-craze’ that ensued. Besides addressing the role of

scapegoating in the persecution of marginalized groups, it suggests how belief in demonic magic co-existed with Christian belief in miracles. Students will analyze primary sources—from popular charms to theological responses—to further understand the historical and cultural context in which these sources were created and consider the ways in which these practices were understood and utilized in different regions and time periods. Supplemented with 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 and how they inform modern popular culture.

MAIN COURSE TEXTS:

Bailey, Michael D. Bailey. *Magic and Superstition in Europe: A Concise History from Antiquity to the Present*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. **(required text)**

Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Night Battles: Witchcraft & Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth & Seventeenth Centuries*. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983. **(required text)**

Selected readings:

Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700: A Documentary History. United States: University of Pennsylvania Press, Incorporated, 2001.

[Internet Medieval Sourcebook](#)

Selected Articles

ATTENDANCE, EXPECTATIONS, AND GRADING POLICIES

This is an accelerated course 6-week course, it is important that students attend every class on time and are ready to participate. This means keeping up with weekly readings, participating in class discussions, and completing assignments on time. While there is not a strict attendance policy, class participation is a part of the student's overall grade. The basis for evaluation of performance will be class participation, five in-class quizzes, two primary source analyses, and a final essay on *The Night Battles*. Weekly quizzes will consist of IDS, multiple-choice, map, matching, short-essay questions, or a combination thereof on Friday's. The in-class assignments cannot be made up, except for emergencies (e.g., illness), however, **the lowest quiz grade will be dropped**. In the event of illness, a death in the family, or other serious personal crisis (documentation required), students need to communicate as soon as possible due to the limited extra time of the semester.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE BREAK DOWNS:

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|------------------------------|-----|
| Weekly quizzes (x5) | 40% |
| Class participation | 10% |
| Primary Source Analysis (x2) | 30% |
| Final Essay | 20% |

UF GRADING SCALE

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|---------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Grade Range: | 100-94 | 90-93 | 87-89 | 84-86 | 80-83 | 77-79 | 74-76 | 70-73 | 67-69 | 64-66 | 60-64 | 0-64 |
| Letter Grade: | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
| Grade Points: | 4.0 | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.0 | 2.67 | 2.33 | 2.0 | 1.67 | 1.33 | 1.0 | .67 | 0 |

Civil Discussion and Content Warning: This class is meant to elucidate ideas about beliefs, religion, and identity through guided readings and civil discussion. We will be covering sensitive topics related to violence and marginalized victims, students are encouraged to keep an open mind and a respectful attitude towards classmates. Concerns may be directed to the professor.

Electronics Policy: Laptops and tablets are allowed for taking notes and accessing readings. This policy may change if electronics are causing a distraction. Those needing to use their cell phones may step outside the classroom.

COURSEWORK AND SCHEDULE

**The schedule is subject to change at any point in the semester. If changes are made, the instructor will notify students in advance, in class and via the course Canvas page. The same applies to other parts of the syllabus* anything designated (C) will be found on Canvas*

| WEEK 1 JULY 3 -7 | INTRO TO MAGIC | READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Monday | Course Introduction | Review Syllabus |
| Tuesday | No Class | Get your books and start reading! |
| Wednesday | Defining magic, Ancient Roots | Bailey, Chapter 1, pp1-42 |
| Thursday | The Rise of Christianity and the West | Bailey, Chapter 2, 42-59 |
| Friday | *Quiz 1 & Class discussion | Kors and Peters, (c) Augustine: <i>On Christian Teaching</i> |

| WEEK 2 JULY 10-14 | THE MERGE: CHRISTIAN CONVERSION AND POPULAR BELIEFS | READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Monday | The Augustinian Worldview | Bailey Chapter 2, pp59-76, |
| Tuesday | Thomas Aquinas and the Nature of Evil Class discussion | Primary Sources: Kors and Peters, Witchcraft in Europe, Caesarius of Arles: <i>Sermon 54</i> , Isidore of Seville, <i>Etymologies</i> |
| Wednesday | Writing Workshop | Directions for Primary Source Analysis |
| Thursday | Popular Belief and Practices | Karen Louise. "Anglo-Saxon Charms in the Context of a Christian, World View." <i>Journal of Medieval History</i> 11, no. 4 (December 1, 1985): 279–93. |
| Friday | *Quiz 2 , Charms and the Liturgy | <i>Aecerbot Ritual</i> as translated in Karen Jolly, <i>Popular Religion in Anglo-Saxon England: Elf Charms in Context</i> (Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press: 1996) 6-8. |
| WEEK 3 JULY 17-21 | MAGIC OF THE PEOPLE | READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS |
| Monday | | Primary Source Analysis 1 Due |
| Tuesday | Varieties of Magic: Common, Learned, Performative | Bailey, Chapter 3 |
| Wednesday | Magic, Gender, and behavior | Primary Sources: Kors and Peters, Witchcraft in Europe, William of Malmesbury: The sorceress of Berkely; Master Gratian The Decretum |
| Thursday | The Witches Sabbath | |
| Friday | Quiz 3 , Class discussion | Content Review and Writing Workshop, Directions for primary source analysis 2 |
| WEEK 4 JULY 24-28 | THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE: HERESY, VIOLENCE, AND CANON LAW | READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS |
| Monday | Opposition: The Church's Stance - Heresy and Condemnation | Bailey, Chapter 4 |
| Tuesday | | Primary Sources: Kors and Peters, Witchcraft in Europe, Kramer and Sprenger: The Malleus Maleficarum; Pope Alexander VI: The Pursuit of Witches in Lombardy |
| Wednesday | Canon Law on investigating heresies | , Henry Ansgar. "Judicial Torture in Canon Law and Church Tribunals: From Gratian to Galileo." <i>The Catholic Historical Review</i> 101, no. 4 (2015): 754–93. https://www.jstor.org/stable/43898858 . |

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|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Thursday | | Primary Sources: Kors and Peters, Witchcraft in Europe, Pope Hadrian VI: On Diabolical Witchcraft |
| Friday | Quiz 4, Class discussion | Primary Source Analysis 2 Due |
| WEEK 5 JULY 31- AUGUST 4 | THE WITCH-CRAZE AND THE INQUISITION | READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS |
| Monday | | Bailey Chapter 5 |
| Tuesday | | Henningsen, Gustav. "The Witches' Flying and the Spanish Inquisitors, or How to Explain (Away) the Impossible []," <i>Folklore</i> 120, no. 1 (April 1, 2009): 57–74. https://doi.org/10.1080/00155870802647833 . |
| Wednesday | | |
| Thursday | | begin reading Ginzburg's <i>The Night Battles</i> |
| Friday | Quiz 5 | Directions for Final Essay |
| WEEK 6 AUGUST 7-11 | BATTLING SUPERNATURAL MAGIC AND RISE OF REASON | READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS |
| Monday | The Reformation to Skepticism | Bailey Chapter 6 |
| Tuesday | | |
| Wednesday | Final class discussion | Finish <i>The Night Battles</i> |
| Thursday | In Class writing Workshop | |
| Friday | NO CLASS | Turn in Final Essay |

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

| Date | Subject |
|------|---------------------------|
| 7/7 | Quiz 1 |
| 7/14 | Quiz 2 |
| 7/17 | Primary Source Analysis 1 |
| 7/21 | Quiz 3 |
| 7/28 | Primary Source Analysis 2 |
| | Quiz 4 |
| 8/4 | Quiz 5 |
| 8/11 | Final Essay |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UF POLICIES

Students with Disabilities

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty

The University, as well as your instructor, values and expects academic integrity. Ethical violations include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and academic misconduct (including turning in the work of others as your own and reusing old assignments). These will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing grade in the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy To avoid plagiarism, you must not copy the words, phrases, arguments, ideas, or conclusions of another person or source (including Internet sources) without properly crediting the person or source with both quotation marks and a footnote. Make sure that you properly cite direct quotations, paraphrased information, and facts that are not widely known. I will provide you with guidelines for proper citations and formatting prior to your submission of all written work, but you may contact me at any time for clarification. For more information on UF's honest policy, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>. For more information on how UF's Judicial Affairs processes cases of plagiarism, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>.

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.