

TESP 82  
**Witches, Saints and Heretics: Religious Outsiders**  
William J. Dohar, Ph.D.  
Summer, 2009

**Course Description:** This course *is* about its title but the underlying subject is religious difference and its penalties regarding orthodoxy (heretics), nature (witches), and virtue (saints). Our emphasis lies on the borders of religious convention and what can broadly be described as “normative religion.” But that description is subject to flux and interpretation according to culture and time. Because our course-length is a factor, we tend to look at religious differences in Christianity, past and present.

**Course Requirements:** Since this is a second-level course in Religious Studies, there is an expectation of solid foundations in learning processes and performance. The first requirement is an **intellectual commitment** to the subject. This shows up in regular attendance, a careful reading of all assignments and being willing to examine and explore what they argue. **Participation** is central to this course and includes physical presence, mental acuity and regular discussions. You should bring every assigned text to class on the day due so that participation can be all the more meaningful; failure to do so will affect your participation score. Two short **quizzes** and a final **exam** (essay) chart factual and conceptual understanding of course themes. Students will have a choice of paper topics for two brief **essays** (2-3 pp) and each student will make a brief in-class **presentation** from a list of daily topics.

**Texts:** We use one textbook for the section on witches (P. G. Maxwell-Stuart’s *Witchcraft in Europe and the New World, 1400-1800* (2001)). **All other readings for this course are in ANGEL**, so you’ll need to have an ANGEL account in order to access materials for the course (readings, announcements, email, etc.). The password for our course in Angel is **Enchant**. For any passages from the **Bible**, students may consult a printed copy of the scriptures or find pertinent passages on-line at <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/>

**Due dates, late submissions, plagiarism, etc.:** All assignments—reading and writing—are due the day assigned. Extensions are rare but possible, depending on justifiable circumstances and consultation with me. For the sake of fairness, some **grade reduction results with later submissions**. The key here is to plan ahead and meet the deadlines as best you can. Avoid reaching a crisis situation; if in doubt (about this or any other requirement), **see me** and we can work things out. Any student with a learning disability should see me immediately with paperwork from the Drahnann Center so that we can work out necessary accommodations. **Plagiarism in any form** will result in certain failure of the project in question and may result in a failing grade for the entire course according to University policies and procedures (please see: <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/>).

**Course Credit:**

Essays:	30%
Quizzes:	20%
Presentation:	10%
Participation:	25% (including two 5-point online discussions)
Final Exam:	15%

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

R	June 18	“Witches, Saints and Heretics”: An Introduction to the Course	
<b>HERETICS</b>			
M	June 22	Who’s In, Who’s Out? – Marking Religious Boundaries <i>Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 5:1-20</i> * <i>An Heretical Collection (sources from the Middle Ages)</i> * <i>Eve’s Various Children</i> (the Brothers Grimm)	
W	June 24	Religion, Anxiety and Exclusion * <i>C. Berlet, “Dances With Devils” (The Logic of Oppression)</i>	
TH	June 25	Social and Sexual Heretics Leviticus chs 11-12; 15-20 *Peter Lewis Allen, “The Heinous Sin of Self-Pollution”	<b>Paper Option 1</b>
<b>WITCHES</b>			
M	June 29	From Heresy to Witchcraft * <i>Sorcerers in Java</i> “Witchcraft in Europe,” pp. 1-27	<b>Paper Option 2</b>
W	July 1	“Once upon a time...” Images of the Witch in Legend and Film * <i>K. Briggs, A Sampler of British Folk-Tales</i> QUIZ 1	
TH	July 2	<b>Online Discussion: Witches, Women and the Devil</b> “Witchcraft in Europe,” pp. 28-53 * <i>The Malleus maleficarum, or Hammer of Witches (pages TBA)</i>	
M	July 6	Witches and the Law I “Witchcraft in Europe,” pp. 54-76 * <i>The Malleus maleficarum, or Hammer of Witches (pages TBA)</i>	
W	July 8	Witches and the Law II * <i>The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry</i> * <i>F. Spee, “Cautio Criminalis”</i>	<b>Paper Option 3</b>
TH	July 9	<b>Online Discussion: Legal Categories and the Illusions of Certainty</b> *“Habeas Schmabeas” from “This American Life”	
<b>SAINTS</b>			
M	July 13	Saints: God’s Presence or Divine Madness? * <i>D. Weinstein and R. Bell, “Who Was A Saint?”</i> * <i>Christina of Stommeln, “Letters” (1272)</i> * <i>Thomas of Celano on Francis of Assisi</i>	<b>Paper Option 4</b>
W	July 15	Searching for Saints * <i>Fr. Blazon, S.J. (in Robertson Davies’ Fifth Business)</i> * <i>St. Pancho Villa?</i> * <i>Patron Saints</i>	QUIZ 2

TH	July 16	<b>Online Discussion: Saints and the Body</b> <i>*K. Harrison, "What Remains: The Lure of Relics in a Faithless Age"</i>
M	July 20	Praying to Saints <i>*Sandra Cisneros, "Little Miracles, Kept Promises"</i> <i>*Mark Garvey, "A Date With A Virgin" (from Searching for Mary)</i>
W	July 22	Saintly Phenomena: Apparitions and Stigmata <i>*Stigmata (from R. Hansen, A Stay Against Confusion)</i>
TH	July 23	Final Examination

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**Grading Scale:**

A	100 – 95	exceptional
A-	94-90	excellent
B+	89-87	very good
B	86-83	good
B-	82-80	solid performance
C+	79-76	average
C	75-72	
C-	71-69	
D	68-64	
D-	63-60	
F	< 59	

**Contact Info:**

**Office Hours:** 9:30 – 10:30 TR  
and by appt  
**Email:** wdohar@scu.edu  
**Office:** 305 Kenna