

TESP 82, Witches, Saints, and Heretics: Religious Outsiders

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SYLLABUS

Course Description: This course *is* about its title but the underlying subject is religious difference and its penalties regarding radical stances in relationship to orthodoxy (heretics), nature (witches), and virtue (saints). Our emphasis lies on the borders of religious convention or what can broadly be described as ‘normative religious practices.’ But that description is subject to flux and interpretation according to culture and time. Because our course-length is a factor, we tend to focus on the Christian tradition.

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 attendance, a careful reading of all assignments and a willingness to examine and explore what those texts reveal. **Participation** is central to this course and includes a physical and intellectual presence and regular self-expression in discussions, in class and online. Students should bring whatever reading materials are due on the assigned day; failure to do so hobbles discussion and will result in some diminishment of participation scores. Two short **quizzes** and a final **exam** (essay) chart factual and conceptual understanding of course themes. Finally, students will fulfill the **writing** requirements in the course with two short essays (2-3 pages in length) on selected topics.

Texts: We use one slim 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 pass code to get into Angel for this course 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. An extension of a due date is rare but possible, pending consultation with me. But this will also result in some appropriate reduction in credit. The key here is to plan ahead and meet the deadlines as best as you can. Avoid reaching a crisis situation; if in doubt (about this or any other requirement), **see me** and we can work something out. **Plagiarism** in any form will result in failure of the pertinent project and may result in a failing grade for the course.

Course Credit:

Essays:	20%
Quizzes:	30%
Participation:	20%
Online Disc:	15%
Final Exam:	15%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

T 9/23 "Witches, Saints, and Heretics": An Introduction to the Course

HERETICS

R 9/25 Who's In, Who's Out? – Religion and Boundaries
**Eve's Various Children* (the Brothers Grimm)
*Shirley Jackson's, 'The Lottery'

T 9/30 Four Christian Heresies
Acts of the Apostles 1: 12-26
**The Arian Heresy and the Death of Arius*
**Bernard Gui on the Cathars*
**Galileo's Condemnation*
**The Heresy of the Seventh Day Adventists*

R 10/2 Anxiety and Religious Exclusion
*C. Berlet, "Dances With Devils" (*The Logic of Oppression*)

T 10/7 Creationism and Evolution Paper Option 1
Genesis, chapters 1-3; 6-7
**Answers in Genesis*

R 10/9 Sexual Heretics
*Historic Origins of Christian Condemnation of Homosexuality
*Heresy Precedes Homosexuality

WITCHES

T 10/14 From Heresy to Witchcraft Paper Option 2
**Sorcerers in Java*
Witchcraft in Europe, pp 1-27

R 10/16 Images of the Witch: A Global View (Online Discussion)

T 10/21 "Once upon a time..." Fairytales, Folk-tales and the Ways of Witches
*K. Briggs, *A Sampler of British Folk-Tales* Quiz 1

R 10/23 Women as Witches (Online Discussion)
Witchcraft in Europe, pp 28-53
**The Hammer of Witches (Part I)*

T 10/28 Witches and the Law Paper Option 3
**The Hammer of Witches (Part II)*
**The Trial of Suzanne Gaudry*

R 10/30 Witchcraft in a Small Town
The Disappearance of Kelly Wilson (NBC Dateline)

T 11/4 Legal Categories and the Illusions of Certainty (Online Discussion)
"Habeas Schmabeas" from the online broadcast of 'This American Life'

SAINTS

- R 11/6 Saints: Divine Presence or Divine Madness?
*K. Woodward, *Miracles of the Christian Saints*
*Christina of Stommel, "Letters" (1272) Paper Option 4
- T 11/11 Saints as Marginal
*St. Pancho Villa?
*Sandra Cisneros, "Little Miracles, Kept Promises"
- R 11/13 Saints and the Body
*K. Harrison, "What Remains: The Lure of Relics in a Faithless Age"
- T 11/18 Saintly Phenomena: Apparitions and Visions
*Bernadette of Lourdes
*Mark Garvey, 'A Date with a Virgin' Quiz 2
- R 11/20 Judging Visions Paper Option 5
Readings TBA

Thanksgiving Break

- T 12/2 Saintly Phenomena: Stigmata
*Ted Harrison, *Stigmata* (Cases from the Present)
- R 12/4 Religious Outsiders in Retrospect

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:

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