

History 315 Witchcraft and Magic in European History  
Spring Semester 2003  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50 McIver 227

Jodi Bilinkoff McIver 211  
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-10:45, and by appointment

Phone Numbers:

Office/Voice Mail: 334-4646

Home/Answering Machine: (919) 960-3636 (before 9 PM please)

e-mail: jodi\_bilinkoff@uncg.edu

Required Reading for Course:

Jeffrey Russell, A History of Witchcraft

Alan C. Kors and Edward Peters, eds., Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700 [K&P]

Christopher Marlowe, Dr. Faustus

Selected Documents on e-reserve and at Jackson Library

M	1/13	Introduction to Course
W	1/15	What is Magic? Russell 8-29
F	1/17	Myth, Magic, and Law in Greco-Roman Antiquity Russell 29-36
M	1/20	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY
W	1/22	Making Histories
F	1/24	Christian Origins
M	1/27	Christian Origins
W	1/29	Christianity and the Concept of Evil K&P 6-12; Mark 5:1-21 (reserve)
F	1/31	The Book of Revelation (reserve]
M	2/3	Book of Revelation: Discussion, Questions 1 PAGE RESPONSE DUE

W 2/5 From Late Antiquity to Early Medieval Europe

F 2/7 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe  
Russell 37-52; K&P 41-44; "Pope Gregory's Letter to Mellitus" (reserve)

M 2/10 Christians and Pagans in Early Medieval Europe  
Russell 52-54; K&P 60-63

W 2/12 Defining Heresy  
Russell 55-63; K&P 58-59, 78-81

F 2/14 Punishing Heresy  
Russell 69-71

M 2/17 Heresy and Scholasticism  
Russell 63-69; K&P 87-90, 103-105, 169-172

W 2/19 Christians and Jews

F 2/21 The Malleus Maleficarum: Establishing Authority  
  
K&P 112-114, 176-180

M 2/24 The Malleus Maleficarum  
K&P 181-229

W 2/26 The Malleus Maleficarum: Discussion, Questions  
1 PAGE RESPONSE DUE  
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM ASSIGNED

F 2/28 The Reformation  
K&P 259-260

M 3/3 The Reformation

W 3/5 Reformers and the Devil  
K&P 261-270  
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE

F 3/7 Witchcraft, Law and State-Building  
Russell 72-89; K&P 290-302

M 3/10-F 3/14 SPRING BREAK

M 3/17 Trials: Chelmsford  
Russell 109-118; K&P 275-277, 302-308

W 3/19 Trials: Chelmsford  
K&P 302-308  
LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

F 3/21 Trials: Gaudry  
K&P 359-367

M 3/24 Trials: Cornu  
K&P 345-348

W 3/26 Demonic Possession  
K&P 355-359

F 3/28 Possession and Puritanism: Salem  
Russell 103-108, 118-121; K&P 367-370, 436-437

M 3/31 Trials: Scotland  
K&P 318-322

W 4/2 Trials: Bamberg  
K&P 348-353

F 4/4 Trials: Discussion, Questions  
1 PAGE RESPONSE DUE

M 4/7 The Making of the Faust Legend  
Acts 8:9-25 (reserve); Russell 55-58;  
"Of the Knight Henry" (reserve)

W 4/9 Marlowe Dr Faustus

F 4/11 Marlowe Dr Faustus

M 4/14 Marlowe Dr Faustus

W 4/16 The Legend: Now and Then  
1 PAGE RESPONSE DUE

F 4/18 GOOD FRIDAY/PASSOVER HOLIDAY

M	4/21	The Decline of Magic: Science Russell 122-131
W	4/23	The Decline of Magic: Skepticism and Toleration K&P 280-289, 314-317
F	4/25	Medical Explanations?
M	4/28	The Decline of Magic: Skepticism and Toleration K&P 392-394, 402-406, 429-435
W	4/30	Persistence of Belief: Students' Stories
F	5/2	Students' Stories [The "New Witchcraft" Russell 148-171]
M	5/5	Modern "Witchhunts," or Who will be Next? TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM ASSIGNED
M	5/12	TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S MAILBOX IN HISTORY DEPT OFFICE (MCIVER 221) BY 3:00 PM

#### **GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. This is not a "how-to" course, or a joke.
2. I require regular attendance for this course. We cover a lot of material and one absence could mean missing out on a hundred years or more of European history! If you are not prepared to consistently come on time and stay until the end of the class period, please drop the course. I take attendance and class participation (in the form of questions, comments, mental alertness and intellectual engagement with and curiosity about the material) into account when formulating final grades. If you miss more than 3 classes you may be dropped from the course at the sole discretion of the instructor; if you miss 3

consecutively you will definitely be dropped. If you miss the first two class sessions and do not notify me you will be dropped from the course.

3. Please read the material specified for a given class period or periods before coming to class. It is essential to keep up with the syllabus. Please let me know if you misplace your syllabus and I will be happy to supply you with another copy; it is also available on my website.

4. Please bring to class the book(s) designated for that day. This is particularly important in the case of primary source material such as Kors & Peters and Dr. Faustus, for we will be examining the texts together in class.

5. Grades will be based primarily upon several take-home assignments, which will be described in detail during the course of the semester. Please wordprocess these assignments, double-spaced and spell-checked and hand in a hard copy. I am looking here for correctness and clarity of exposition in written essays, as well as an understanding of course content. To me history, and the ways in which it is expressed are not two different things, but are rather, intimately connected.

All assignments are due on the days specified in the syllabus.

**RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** If you are unable to hand in assignments on time because of illness or family emergency it is YOUR responsibility to contact me. Alas, despite years of reading this material I have failed to develop the skill of telepathy! If I am not contacted directly or by message I will not accept late assignments. See front page of syllabus for ways of contacting me.

6. If you do not think you will be able to abide by these responsibilities, please drop the course so that someone else can take it. The last day to drop the course without academic penalty is Wednesday March 19.

