COURSE WEB PAGE http://courses.washington.edu/hst025
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REQUIRED BOOKS (at Bookstore; also on reserve in Odegaard Undergraduate Library)
Norman Cohn, Europe's Little Despots (Revised edition, 2001)
Kors & Peters, Witchcraft in Europe 1100-1700: Documentary History (2nd ed, 2001)
Christopher Harlowe, Doctor Faustus
Cario Ginzburg, The Night Battles: Witchcraft & Agrarian Cults in 16-17th C
Boyé & Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft

XEROX PACKET: will be available around midterm; includes a more readings for second half of course and documents for second papers; also available on OUGL reserve.

LECTURE OUTLINES: These will be posted on course web page before (as often as possible) or after every lecture. Be sure to consult these outlines when studying.

REQUIREMENTS: **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THIS COURSE**
Incompletes at end of quarter for medical or personal emergencies only. Contact Prof. O'Neil directly.

1) ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES, KEEP UP WITH READING (about 120 pages week; this is a lot but very interesting; sometimes arduous reading)

2) SECTIONS and E-POST (10%) Specific readings will be discussed in Friday sections.
Discussion questions will be posted earlier in the week on course web site
Students are encouraged to post questions to E-Post and also to reply to questions

3) EXAMS:
Mid-term exam (15%) Monday, October 23 in class (Week 9)
Final exam (25%) Thursday, December 14 (2:30-4:30 PM)
(An earlier final will be scheduled for those leaving; details in class.)

5) TWO SHORT PAPERS:
First paper due Tuesday October 10 (Wk 3) 2-3 pages (15%)
Second paper due Wednesday November 23 (Wk 10) 5-7 pages (25%)
Late papers will be marked down - 1 per day overdue (weekend = 2 days)

FIRST PAPER TOPIC (2-3 pp) Analysis of texts from early medieval witchcraft legislation.
Further details available on last page of this syllabus. Texts will be discussed in section & lecture.

SECOND PAPER TOPICS (5-7pp) are to be drawn from assigned course readings, based on an analysis of primary documents such as the Malleus, Doctor Faustus, Ten C. Witch Debate, transcripts of witch trials, including the Besançon/Nevers Brevettes in Italy, and others from France, Germany or England. Materials from the Salem witch trials will be on reserve for those who want to write about the Salem trials (also using Salem Possessed). Details available after midterm.

Historical Background: There are no prerequisites for this course, but it covers a broad span of history from Middle Ages to the 17th C. If students want more background on topics covered in class, here are some general surveys of medieval and early modern history (available at Odegaard Undergraduate Library):
C. Warren Hollister, Medieval Europe: A Short History (Di1746)
Coffin, Stacey, Lerner & Meacham, Western Civilization (CE245/L47)
WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION: THEMES, ISSUES, DEFINITION OF TERMS Page 2

Reading: Cohn, Europe’s Inner Demons, Ch 1 (on stereotype), pp. 1-15;
Ch 8 (on Margaret Murray), pp. 144-161
Levack, Ch 1 “Introduction,” 3rd edition, pp. 1-29 (2nd ed pp. 1-26)

W 9/27 Introduction to course: What was witchcraft? Who was a witch?
Basic Themes: 1) witch beliefs versus witch trials 2) learned and popular levels of witch belief
Th 9/28 Witchcraft as a belief system: anthropological approaches
Definition of themes: witchcraft, magic, sorcery, superstition

F 9/28 SECTION DISCUSSION: Cohn, Ch 1 and 8, also Purkiss Handout #1

PART I. EUROPEAN WITCH BELIEFS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE REFORMATION

WEEK 2 Reading: Levack, Ch 2, “Intellectual Foundations,” 3rd edition, pp. 30-78; (2nd ed pp. 27-67)
Kors and Peters (2nd ed), pp. 42-47 (Augustine), 60-67 (Canon Episcopi),
81-86 (St. Justin), 115-132 (Vox in Rama)
Cohn, Europe’s Inner Demons, Ch 2 (on Devil), pp. 16-34
Ch 3 (on demonization of heretics), pp. 35-78
Ch 9 (on right-witchcraft), pp. 162-180

M 10/2
The Problem of evil: Judic; Classical and Christian versions
READ: selections from Book of Job (Handout #2), and Augustine, K&P 42-47

Tu 10/3
Christianity and Papalism: the conversion of Europe:
READ: K&P, 81-99 (St. Justin)

W 10/4
Early medieval witchcraft legislation (Handout #3) and Canon Episcopi
EXPLANATION AND DISCUSSION OF FIRST PAPER TOPICS

Th 10/5
13th C Harsey and the medieval Inquisition

F 10/6
SECTION DISCUSSION: What did people believe about witches in early Middle Ages?
READING: Early witchcraft legislation (Handout); Canon Episcopi, K&P pp. 80-87;
Cohn Chap. 9 (on right witch or strega)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE (2 pp) see last page of syllabus

WEEK 3 Reading: Levack Ch 3 Legal Foundation, 3rd ed, pp. 74-108 (2nd ed, pp. 68-99);
Cohn, Europe’s Inner Demons, Ch 6-7 (on ritual magic), 103-143
Kors & Peters, pp. 133-37 (Bernardinus), 180-204 (Mal outdoor women)

M 10/9
Scholasticism and Demonology: Thomas Aquinas on demons
T 10/10
Sorcery and Politics in 14th Century Europe

W 10/11
Scapegoating; Demonization of the Jews

Th 10/12
Women in Middle Ages: Attitudes and images (SLIDES)

F 10/13
SECTION DISCUSSION: What image of women emerged in sermons, bestiaries?
READING: Bernardinus of Siena against women sorcerers; K&P, 133-137
Mal outdoor women as witches: K&P, 180-204

WEEK 4 Reading: Kors & Peters, pp. 204-229 (Mal outdoor trial procedures)
pp. 155-159 (Nider), 176-180 (Papal Bull)
Cohn, Europe’s Inner Demons, Ch 11-12 (witch hunt), pp 202-233

M 10/16
Growth of witch trials & witch theory in 15th century
READ: Nider, Formula in K&P, pp. 155-159
T 10/17
The Inquisitor as Witch Hunter: Zamer and Sprenger, O.P.
READ: Innocent VIII, Papal Bull Summis desiderantes K&P, 176-180
W 10/18
Mal outdoor Theories & practice of witch-hunting
Th 10/19
MIDTERM REVIEW Learned vs popular elements of witch beliefs & trials - 15th C.

Fr 10/20
DISCUSSION: Mal outdoor on how to conduct a witch trial; K&P, 204-229

WEEK V
Weekend of 10/21-22: Start reading Doctor Faustus if you have time; NOT ON MIDTERM
but it will be discussed in section Fri 10/27;

WEEK V
M 10/23 MIDTERM EXAM (BRING BLUE BOOKS)
covers lectures and reading material through Week 4
PART II: EUROPEAN WITCH PANIC OF THE 16TH & 17TH CENTURIES

O'Neil, Page 3

Reading: Kers & Peters, pp. 230-45; 259-270; Marlowe, Doctor Faustus

Levack, Ch. 4 "Impact of Reformation," 3rd ed., pp. 100-133, (2nd ed. pp. 100-124)

T 10/24 Natural magic in the Renaissance learned tradition

W 10/25 SLIDE LECTURE: Images of devils in 15th-16th C. art

Th 10/26 Reformation theology & the myth of Faust

Fr 10/27 SECTION DISCUSSION: Marlowe's Doctor Faustus

WEEK VI

Reading: "Xerox Packet: #8 Weyer, Bodin & Brenz; Levack, Ch 5-6, 3rd ed., pp. 134-203, (2nd ed. pp. 125-186)

Kers & Peters (2nd ed.), pp. 281-302 (Weyer & Bodin), 384-401 (Regnart Scott), 302-308 (Chewsfond)

M 10/30 Impact of the Reformation on European witch beliefs

T 10/31 16th century witch debate: Weyer, Bodin, Brenz, & Scot [Halloween]

W 11/1 English witch trials: a modern case? Handout on English statute

READ: K&P Chelmford trials, pp. 302-8

Th 11/2 Matthew Hopkins: the "Witchfinder General" and the English Civil War

Fr 11/3 SECTION DISCUSSION: 16th century witch debate: Weyer, Bodin, Brenz, & Scot

WEEK 7

Reading: Kors & Peters, pp. 345-56, 353-67, 425-29;

Levack Ch 7, 3rd ed. pp. 204-262 (2nd ed pp. 165-252);

Xerox Packet: Selections #3 - 5 Germany, France & Italy

M 11/8 Scottish witches and King James Stuart (vt & I) Read K&P, Scotland 318-322

T 11/7 The German witch panic. READ XEROX PACKET: #3 Germany (Trial of Walpurga Hausmanns)

W 11/8 German witch panic: (cont.) READ K&P, pp. 345-55 (Bamberg, Wurtzburg, Bonn), 425-429 (von Spee)

Th 11/9 Witch trials in France and Switzerland READ K&P, 345-48 (Marie Cornu), 359-367 (Susanne Guizy)

Fr 11/10 HOLIDAY: READ BOYER AND NISSENBAUM

WEEK 8

Reading: Boyer & Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed; XEROX PACKET #7 SALEM (Medical theories)

Kors & Peters, 367-70 (Cotton Mather), 436-37 (Salem jurors)

M 11/13 Possession and exorcism in France, England and Italy

T 11/14 Puritan New England and the Salem Witch Trials of 1692

W 11/15 Salem village: The social context of witchcraft accusations

Th 11/16 Salem village witch trials: theological and procedural issues; historical interpretations

READ: XEROX PACKET #7 SALEM (Medical theories)

Fr 11/17 SECTION DISCUSSION: Boyer & Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed: What happened at Salem?

WEEK 9

Reading: Ginzbag, Night Battles, pp. 1-39, 69-97, 147-171

M 11/20 Roman inquisition trials in Italy: heresy versus "superstition" & witchcraft and benediction

T 11/21 Benediction as "counter-witches" READ: Ginzbag, Night Battles, pp. 1-39, 147-171; Packet O'Neil article

W 11/22 Spain: The Basque trials and the Spanish Inquisition

READ: K&P, Salazar, 407-415; XEROX PACKET #6 SPAIN (Henningens)

Th 11/23-24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: NO CLASS

WEEK 10

Reading: Levack, Ch 8, 3rd ed. pp. 253-280 (2nd ed. 233-260);


** SECOND PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20TH AT LECTURE **

M 11/27 Late witch trials: Scandinavia and Eastern Europe

T 11/28 SLIDE LECTURE: The image of the witch in European art

W 11/29 Skepticism, materialism, and the Scientific Revolution

Th 11/30 The decline of witch trials: Judicial doubts and rules of evidence

Fr 12/1 SECTION DISCUSSION: Why did Europe stop believing in witches?

READ: XEROX PACKET #8 SKEPTICS (Cynics & Malebranche)

Kors & Peters, pp. 402-406 (Montaigne), 429-35 (Bekker), 438-444 (Bayle)

WEEK 11


M 12/4 Historical Perspective: 18th C. Rationalism & 19th C. Romanticism

T 12/6 20th C Anthropological & feminist interpretations: "Witch revival"

W 12/8 "Witch-hunting" analogues: #1 McCarthyism #2 child abuse cases

Th 12/7 Conclusion: chronology, geography & explanations for witch trials

Fr 12/8 EXAM REVIEW IN SECTION

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY DECEMBER 14 8:30-10:20 IN REGULAR CLASSROOM
Topic: Analysis of documents concerning early medieval witch beliefs.
Further discussion of the issues will occur in Section for Week I and in lectures.

Due Date: Tuesday October 10 (3rd week) at lecture.

Late penalty: -.1 per day late

Length: 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced; reasonable font and margins

Purpose: Exercise in close reading of primary documents or texts.
   Historical analysis is based on reading and interpretation of original historical texts from
   a specific time period. These are called "primary documents." In analyzing a document you
   need to figure out: 1) what a specific text is saying, and 2) whose point of view it represents.
   The first paper will focus on this kind of basic explanation and analysis of early witchcraft texts.

Primary Source:
   The central document under consideration will be the Canon Episcopi,
   included in Kors and Peters anthology, pp. 60-63

   Related documents will be included on Handout in Week Two, and all will be discussed
   in lecture. Canon Episcopi will also be discussed in Friday sections of Week 2.

Secondary Source:
   Norman Cohn, Europe’s Inner Demons,
   Chap 9, “Nightwitch” in Popular Imagination,” pp. 162-180

   Cohn discusses the background of early medieval witch documents.
   Be sure to read this before starting your paper.

Question: Choose one of the following.

1) Analyze the text of the Canon Episcopi, explaining what position this document takes
   on the beliefs it describes. What do the authors believe about witchcraft and what do
   they reject in the popular beliefs held by ordinary people of their time?

2) how does the Canon Episcopi compare to earlier documents discussed by Cohn and
   included on the Handout on Early Witchcraft Legislation? Discuss the changes in
   beliefs reflected in these various documents.

Points to consider:
   What kind of document is the Canon Episcopi? What is a "canon"? (This will be discussed in lecture.)
   Whose point of view does the document represent, and to whom is it addressed?
   What exactly is the popular belief being discussed? Who believes these things?
   What is the official interpretation of this belief, and what action is recommended?
   What attitude does the document take towards the people whose beliefs it describes?

Assistance with papers is available from Teaching Assistants assigned to this class and
from the History Department Writing Center in Smith 210 and from Professor O'Neill.
Please make use of all these resources. Don't be shy! We want to meet with you.