Florida Gulf Coast University
IDH 2931: Witch Craze—Early Modern Magic & Ritual

CRN: 10834 (3 Credit Hours)
University-Wide Programs
Honors Program
Spring 2017
Daniels Public Media Center 28
Mondays, 1:30pm-4:15pm

Dr. Elizabeth Bouldin
Assistant Professor of History
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Phone: 745-4234
Office Hours: M/W 11:30am-12:30pm, and by appointment
Office: Merwin Hall 194

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Alchemy, astronomy, freemasonry, ritual, witchcraft...These are just some of the ways that early modern Europeans used the world of the occult to make sense of their own rapidly changing world. This course will take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of magic and superstition in early modern Europe as it explores the age of the "witch craze."

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
This class will

1) Introduce students to the history of early modern witchcraft, ritual, and magic.
2) examine the societal structures that fostered the witch craze.
3) offer a range of assignments and readings to develop skills in critical analysis, written communication, and oral communication.
REQUIRED BOOKS:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Total Possible Points: 1000

- **Course Engagement**: 150 points
- **Weekly Discussion Posts**: 180 points
- **Moderator Assignment**: 200 points
- **Trial Analysis**: 100 points
- **Rough Draft of Research Paper**: 150 points
- **Final Draft of Research Paper**: 150 points
- **Presentation of Research**: 70 points

**Course Engagement**: Active participation in this class is required. *Evaluation of your engagement in this class is based on your overall effort: coming to class on time, attending class regularly, listening actively, participating in all class activities, and making a substantial and thoughtful contribution to class discussions.*

An important part of the classroom experience is respect for others. Distracting behavior that interrupts class (ringing or vibrating cellphones, texting, late arrival, talking) will result in a significantly lowered course engagement grade. Disrespectful behavior towards other students will not be tolerated.

**Weekly Discussion Posts**: You will be asked to submit short discussion posts (1-2 paragraphs) each week before class.

**Moderator Assignment**: Working in pairs, students will choose a day to moderate the class discussion for the first 45 minutes of class. Working individually, you will also write a moderator response paper (around 600-800 words) that analyzes the day’s
reading in the context of the larger themes of the class. **You do not need to submit a discussion post for the day you moderate the discussion. Instead, you will receive the full 20 points.**

**Trial Analysis:** This case study asks you to write a short (600-800 word) paper that analyzes an early modern witch trial.

**Final Project:** This assignment asks you to write an original research paper (8-10 pages) on a topic of your choosing related to the course material. For example, you might choose to focus on witchcraft and medicine, or on the effect of the Enlightenment on early modern magic. There are three parts to the project: rough draft, final draft, and presentation of your research.

**Grade Scale: out of 1000 possible points**

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**Late assignments will be penalized seven points per day**

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**Academic Behavior Standards and Academic Dishonesty/Cheating Policy:**

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found under the "Student Code of Conduct" and "Policies and Procedures" sections of the Student Guidebook. All students are expected to study this document, which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The Guidebook is available online at: http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html

I follow university procedures in handling all cheating and plagiarism cases. Assignments for which you earn a “0” due to academic dishonesty cannot be dropped.

**The Writing Center:**

The Writing Center is located in Library West, 202C and can help you with the writing assignments for this course. It is a great resource for the writing assignments. More information can be found at: http://www.fgcu.edu/writingcenter/
**Student Responsibility:**
Please check Canvas frequently for updates, announcements, assignment instructions, and other course information.
Email (ebouldin@fgcu.edu) is the best way to contact me. Please allow 24 hours for a response on weekdays, and 48 hours on weekends.

**Student Observance of Religious Holidays:**
All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absences. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

**Disabilities Accommodation Services:**
Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university’s guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please see me or contact the Office of Adaptive Services. The Office of Adaptive Services is located in Howard Hall 137. The phone number is 590-7956 or TTY 590-7930

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**January 9**

Introduction to Course
Please Complete the VAC (worth 1 extra-credit point)

**January 16** – NO CLASS, MLK HOLIDAY
January 23 – The Ritual Moment

Readings:
1) Muir, Ritual in Early Modern Europe, pp. 1-79
2) Ars Moriendi images:

Assignment: Discussion Post 1

January 30 – Ritual and the Body

Readings:
1) Muir, pp. 81-144
2) The Return of Martin Guerre (film available as a course reserve)

Assignment: Discussion Post 2

February 6 – Magic in the Age of Reformation

Readings:
1) Parish (ed.), Superstition and Magic in Early Modern Europe, pp. 93-98 and Chapter 4
3) Please also explore this online exhibition:
http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/whats-on/exhibitions/magic/

Assignment: Discussion Post 3
February 13 – Ghosts and Apparitions

Readings:
1) Parish (ed.), Chapter 7
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.fgcu.edu/stable/2674443

Assignment: Discussion Post 4

February 20 – Witch Craze: Foundations

Readings:
1) Levack, The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe, Introduction and Chapter 1-3
2) Levack (ed.), Sourcebook, Part II

Assignment: Discussion Post 5

February 27 – Witch Craze: Contexts

Readings:
1) Levack, The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe, Chapters 4-5
2) Levack (ed.), Sourcebook, pp. 73-102 and pp. 112-128 (from Part III)

Assignment: Discussion Post 6

March 6 – SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

March 13 – Witch Trials in Europe

Readings:
1) Levack, The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe, Chapters 6-7
2) Levack (ed.), Sourcebook, Part V

Assignment: Discussion Post 7
March 20 – Witch Trials in Britain

Reading: Levack, *Sourcebook*, part VI

Assignment: Primary Source Analysis

March 27 – Witchcraft and Gender

Readings:
1) Parish (ed.), Chapters 9 and 11

Assignment: Discussion Post 8

April 3 – Demonic Possession

Readings:
1) Levack (ed.), *Sourcebook*, Part VII
   Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.fgcu.edu/stable/25580918

Assignment: Discussion Post 9

April 10 – Salem: 1692

Reading:
   Stable URL: http://www.americanantiquarian.org/proceedings/44539519.pdf

Assignment: Rough Draft Due
April 17 – The End of the Witch Craze

Readings:
1) Levack, *The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe*, Chapter 8-9
2) Levack (ed.), *Sourcebook*, pp. 360-385

Assignment: Discussion Post 10

April 24 – Final Thoughts

Assignment: Presentation of Research

May 1—

Assignment: Final Paper due by 2:45pm