

HIST 601R
Fall 2010

READINGS IN MAGIC, SCIENCE, AND FAITH IN THE PREMODERN WORLD

Dr. Mike Ryan

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Office: University Hall 122

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 P. M. and by appointment

Office Phone: 49 - 42681

Main Lecture:

Location: University Hall (UNIV) 319

Days: Wednesday

Time: 3:30-6:20 P.M.

Required Texts:

Michael Bailey, *Magic and Superstition in Europe* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006).

Mary Baine Campbell, *Wonder and Science: Imagining Worlds in Early Modern Europe* (Cornell, 2004).

Owen Davies, *Grimoires: A History of Magic Books* (Oxford, 2009).

Leah DeVun, *Prophecy, Alchemy, and the End of Time: John of Rupescissa in the Late Middle Ages* (Columbia, 2009).

William Eamon, *Science and the Secrets of Nature: Books of Secrets in Medieval and Early Modern Culture* (Princeton, 1996).

E. E. Evans-Pritchard, *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande* (Oxford, 1976).

Valerie I. J. Flint, *The Rise of Magic in Early Medieval Europe* (Princeton, 1994).

Richard Kieckhefer, *Magic in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 1989).

Christopher Lehrich, *The Occult Mind: Magic in Theory and Practice* (Cornell, 2007).

David Lindberg, *The Beginnings of Western Science: The European Scientific Tradition in Philosophical, Religious, and Institutional Context*, 2nd ed. (Chicago, 2008).

Jacob Neusner, Ernest S. Frerichs, and Paul Virgil McCracken Flesher, *Religion, Science, and Magic in Concert and in Conflict* (Oxford, 1992).

Alec Ryrie, *The Sorcerer's Tale: Faith and Fraud in Tudor England* (Oxford, 2008).

Frances Yates, *Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition* (Chicago, 1991).

Course Description:

The purpose of this class is to give students a basic, but by no means all-encompassing, understanding of the history of magic in the premodern world and how it overlapped with the realms of science and religion. Magic and the occult were experienced in the arenas of politics, culture, economy, and society in Europe from antiquity until modernity. It is thus recognized as an important field of historical inquiry and is currently undergoing something of a scholarly Renaissance increasingly important. Students will be exposed to a variety of classic and recent studies that negotiate this scholarly terrain.

Course Objectives and Requirements:

During the weekly class meetings, students will discuss the assigned readings in depth and criticize the works accordingly.

You, the student, will be responsible for the following tasks:

I. Weekly attendance and participation.

This is a graduate-level seminar and, as such, student attendance and participation is vital towards the success of the class. Therefore, my attendance policy is as follows: I allow for no more than ONE (1) non-excused absence from this class. If you miss class, you are responsible for covering the missed assignment. **Subsequent non-excused absences from class will result in an overall failing grade.**

A significant component to the attendance and participation part of the grade is the student's role as discussion leader for the week's assigned work. One student a week will be chosen to review the book, give his or her analysis of said book, and lead and steer discussion of the topic.

II. Weekly reviews of three to four (3-4) pages each, based on the assigned readings. Reviews are to be completed by midnight on the Tuesday before our Wednesday class meeting, as they will be used to generate class discussion. Late papers will be penalized with an entire letter grade off per day late.

III. Final paper. The final paper of the class will be a thirty- to forty-(30-40) page historiography paper, which discusses the *status quaestionis* of a topic on medieval or early modern history that overlaps with the history of magic AND science and/or faith, with chronological parameters that can encompass anywhere between antiquity and 1800 C. E. **This final paper will be due on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, by 5:30 P.M.**

Failure to complete ALL the required components of the course will result in an overall failing grade.

Please see me during office hours, or make an appointment if you can't make those hours, if you have any conflicts, concerns, or questions whatsoever.

Grading and Distribution:

Attendance and participation:	25%
Weekly reviews:	30%
Final Paper:	45%

- A+: (97-100%)
- A: (94-96%)
- A-: (90-93%)
- B+: (87-89%)
- B: (84-86%)
- B-: (80-83%)
- C+: (77-79%)
- C: (74-76%)
- C-: (70-73%)
- D+: (67-69%)
- D: (64-66%)
- D-: (60-63%)
- F: (0-59%)

Need for Accommodation:

If there is anything that could affect your class participation or performance and may need accommodation, e.g., a religious holiday, disability, etc., please tell me by the **SECOND** week of classes so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

University Policies:

EQUALITY STATEMENT: The Affirmative Action Office works with the Purdue University community in implementing and upholding policies and practices that are consistent with federal and state mandates as well as existing University policies regarding equal access, equal employment and educational opportunity for all persons, without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status. Purdue University does not condone and will not tolerate discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran.

DISABILITY: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me early in the semester to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. They must also contact: Adaptive Programs, Purdue University, Young Hall, Room 830, 302 Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907, (765)-494-1247 V/TTY, (765)-496-3759 Fax

Be sure to fill out and submit the following form to Adaptive Programs, which you can locate at:

<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/adpro/Electronic%20dirf.doc>

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Sexual harassment is defined in Purdue University's *Executive Memorandum C-33*:

"Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other written, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, education, or participation in a University activity;
2. submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for, or a factor in, decisions affecting that individual's employment, education, or participation in a University activity or;
3. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or academic performance or creating an

intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment for that individual's employment, education, or participation in a University activity."

Sexual harassment by or toward a member of the University community is prohibited. If you have any questions or concerns about this definition, or experience any unwelcome behavior that seems to fit this description, please contact me, another faculty member, or the Sexual Harassment Advisors' Network: network@sla.purdue.edu

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [[University Regulations, Part 5, Section III, B, 2, a](#)] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]. The University's guideline for penalizing academic misconduct recommends giving a grade of "F" for a plagiarized assignment. Plagiarists and cheaters will automatically fail the course and will be immediately reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you are worried about committing plagiarism unknowingly, please come and speak with both me and your teaching assistant.

For more on what constitutes academic integrity, please see the following site:

<http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/administration/integrity.htm>

Course Schedule:

W, August 25:

Assignment: Read Bailey, "Meanings of Magic"
Read Lehrich

W, September 1:

Assignment: Read Bailey, Magic and Superstition in Europe

W, September 8:

Assignment: Read Evans-Pritchard

W, September 15:

Assignment: Read Yates

W, September 22:

Assignment: Read Neusner, et al.

W, September 29:

Assignment: Read Lindberg

W, October 6:

Assignment: Read Kieckhefer

W, October 13:

Assignment: Read Flint

W, October 20:

Assignment: Read DeVun

W, October 27:

Assignment: Read Eamon

W, November 3 :

Assignment: Read Davies

W, November 10:

W, November 17:

W, November 24: **NO CLASS! Enjoy Thanksgiving!**

Assignment: Read Campbell

W, December 1:

Assignment: Read Ryrie

W, December 8: *FINAL CLASS*

Paper Due on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10!!!

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Here are two ways to get information about changes in this course: via my email address: ryan6@purdue.edu and my office phone: 49-42681.