

HIST 395
Spring 2011

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: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 12:00-1:15 P.M.

Required Texts:

Michael Bailey, *Magic and Superstition in Europe* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007).

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

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

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

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

Course Description:

The purpose of this class is twofold: 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 and to understand the mechanics and processes behind creating and producing a successful history research project. 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 an increasingly important scholarly Renaissance. Students will be exposed to a variety of studies that negotiate this scholarly terrain.

Course Objectives and Requirements:

We will see the myriad ways that magic overlapped with notions of science and faith in transalpine and Mediterranean Europe from the fifth through the sixteenth centuries. We will study a variety of secondary sources by contemporary scholars who have conducted important research in the field of premodern magic. During our weekly class meetings, students will discuss the assigned readings in depth and criticize them accordingly. By the end of the semester, you will have produced a research paper rooted in primary and secondary sources and you will have a more thorough understanding of the fluid boundaries surrounding premodern conceptions of magic.

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

I. Daily attendance and participation. Participation includes engaging with various in-class activities, which will include oral discussions of the reading, in-class free writing sessions, and, if necessary, taking pop quizzes.

This is a seminar class 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 THREE (3) non-excused absences from this class. I consider an absence excused if appropriate documentation is submitted (e.g., a doctor's note, a document from PUSH, a mechanic's bill, an obituary, etc.). Should you miss class, you are responsible for covering the missed assignments. Subsequent non-excused absences from class will result in an overall failing grade.

II. Various assignments related to the process of researching and writing a research paper. These will include a primary source analysis exercise, providing an annotated bibliography of secondary sources, providing a polished first draft of the research paper, engaging in individual consultations with Professor Ryan during the weeks of April 5 and April 12, and offering in-class presentations of fifteen (15) minutes during the weeks of April 19 and April 26.

III. Final paper. The final paper of the class will be a ten- to fifteen-(10-15) page research paper on a topic on ancient, medieval, or early modern history that overlaps with the history of magic AND science and/or faith. Chronological parameters can encompass anywhere between antiquity and 1800 C. E. It MUST be based on both primary and secondary sources. Over the duration of this class, I will provide further information about this final research paper. This paper, which I will accept only in hard copy, will

be due on the last day of class, which is THURSDAY, APRIL 28, by 12:00 P.M. Late papers will be penalized an entire letter grade for each day late.

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

Please feel free to 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: 20%

Various research-paper assignments: 30%

Final Paper: 50%

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 me.

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

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

Course Schedule:

T, Jan. 11:

Assignment: Read Bailey, pp. ix-42

R, Jan. 13:

Assignment: Read Bailey, pp. 43-106

T, Jan. 18:

R, Jan. 20: MEET IN HSSE LIBRARY!

Assignment: Read Bailey, pp. 107-177

T, Jan. 25:

Assignment: Read Bailey, pp. 179-248

R, Jan. 27:

Assignment: Work on Primary Source Analysis Worksheet of Etienne of Bourbon's *De Supersticione* :

<http://usna.edu/Users/history/abels/hh315/st%20guinefort.htm>

T, Feb. 1: PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS WORKSHEET DUE IN CLASS

R, Feb. 3: MEET IN HSSE LIBRARY!

Assignment: Read Kieckhefer, pp. ix-55

T, Feb. 8:

Assignment: Read Kieckhefer, pp. 56-150

R, Feb. 10:

Assignment: Read Kieckhefer, pp. 151-201

T, Feb. 15:

R, Feb. 17: NO CLASS! LIBRARY RESEARCH DAY!

Assignment: Work on Annotated Bibliography Assignment

T, Feb. 22: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS

Assignment: Read Lindberg, pp. xv-44

R, Feb. 24:

Assignment: Read Lindberg, pp. 45-110

T, Mar. 1:

Assignment: Read Lindberg, pp. 111-161

R, Mar. 3:

Assignment: Read Lindberg, pp. 163-253

T, Mar. 8:

Assignment: Read Lindberg, pp. 254-367

R, Mar. 10:

Assignment: Read DeVun, pp. xi-79

T, Mar. 15: SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!

R, Mar. 17: SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!

Assignment: Read DeVun, pp. xi-79

T, Mar. 22:

Assignment: Read DeVun, pp. 80-163

R, Mar. 24:

Assignment: Read Ryrie, pp. xii-108

T, Mar. 29:

Assignment: Read Ryrie, pp. 109-190

R, Mar. 31: SUBMIT POLISHED FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER IN CLASS

T, Apr. 5: NO CLASS—REVISE RESEARCH PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL MEETING WITH PROFESSOR RYAN

R, Apr. 7: NO CLASS—REVISE RESEARCH PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL MEETING WITH PROFESSOR RYAN

T, Apr. 12: NO CLASS—REVISE RESEARCH PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL MEETING WITH PROFESSOR RYAN

R, Apr. 14: NO CLASS—REVISE RESEARCH PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL MEETING WITH PROFESSOR RYAN

T, Apr. 19: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH PAPERS

R, Apr. 21: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH PAPERS

T, Apr. 26: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH PAPERS

R, Apr. 28: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH PAPERS
FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

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.