

History 4416F, Fall 2023

Witchcraft in the Early Modern World

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This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of people—mostly women—were tried and executed for the crime of witchcraft in Europe and beyond. Why were Europeans and their descendants so fearful of witchcraft? What do accusations and trials reveal about the beliefs and social structures of the early modern world? Our course will explore these questions and also focus on developing and drafting an original research essay.

Course Syllabus

In this class students will build the following competencies and skills:

1. Identify and describe key events and concepts related to witchcraft in the early modern world.
2. Evaluate diverse forms of historical evidence and cultivate interpretive skills
3. Strengthen writing skills in history and related disciplines
4. Engage with faculty and peers in a collaborative, respectful atmosphere

Methods of Evaluation

*Students must submit all written assignments to pass the course. **In this seminar, class participation is especially important.** Students are expected to attend weekly seminars throughout the term and to prepare for the discussions, rough draft exercise, and other activities. Late papers may be submitted for up to one week past the stated deadline and will receive a 10% deduction. For other approved extensions, students may apply to Academic Counselling. Without an approved extension, no written work will be accepted after one week past the stated deadline.*

Seminar Attendance and Participation:

30%

(this includes leadership in one class (5%), a rough draft evaluation exercise on Wednesday, November 22 (5%), and general participation (20%)

~**1200-word assignment** (due Wednesday, October 4)

10%

~**5000-word essay**, including the components below:

60%

Prospectus (10%), due Wednesday, October 25

Rough draft (20%), due Friday, November 17 (crucial deadline)

Final essay (30%), due Monday, December 4

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see

https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

Course Materials

Reading and advance preparation are essential for a successful class. Assignments will be based on class readings or materials that students find in their own research.

Required Text:

Brian Levack, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe*, 4th ed. (Routledge, 2016)

Other readings will be made available in OWL or through Weldon Library.

Additional Statements

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not use any generative AI tools such as ChatGPT for assignments in this course.

During class and tutorials, please limit your use of electronic devices to note-taking and other course-related activities.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:

https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.