

## WITCHES AND SAINTS

This class will explore how early modern societies constructed categories of deviance through the study of trials of witches in the early modern Atlantic world and saints. We shall practice three key skills of historical scholarship: listening, reading, and writing.

Most important of all, you are asked to listen:

- ◆ to each other:
  - allow each person to finish speaking in discussion
  - in five minute reports (in class on dates **marked**)
  - in your analytic pairs, as you critique one another over the semester
  - no cellular devices, no web-surfing, no email, no texting, no earphones, no distractions
- ◆ to your sources
  - each source is a distinctive voice
  - what can you tell us about that voice?
- ◆ to the literature
  - scholarship also speaks in distinctive voices
  - what can you tell us about that/those author/s?

You will also practice close reading:

- ◆ much of the reading is available online
  - you may wish to print out and mark up specific texts as you analyze them
- ◆ close reading is primarily attending to the author's construction of the prose
  - attend to adjectives, choice of verbs (active? passive?)
  - go slow
- ◆ at specific points in the semester, you will also practice close reading with your partner

And you will have a number of different **writing assignments**, due in class on the date **marked**:

- 1) Journals (10%):
  - ◆ select the most comfortable size of journal (minimum 75 pages) and buy it
  - ◆ write your name and the date on the first page inside the cover
  - ◆ bring it to the first class
- 2) Notes from your sources (5%)
- 3) One 1000-word essay: narrative of your experience (5%)
  - ◆ evaluating two different search engines for a list of studies
  - ◆ how accessible? logical?
  - ◆ include at least one screen shot
  - ◆ evaluate each engine: how it does or does not help you narrow that list
    - ◆ does it help you refine your research?
    - ◆ are its terms of analysis clear? obvious?
- 4) Two 500-word thesis statements (10% each)
  - ◆ one for witchcraft trial records
  - ◆ one for a saint's biography
- 5) A polished draft of a 2500-word research essay on either witchcraft trials or saints (10%)
- 6) The final draft of that 2500-word research essay (20%)

## Grading:

Each of the three is a component of this class.

40% of your grade will come from **oral reports** and participation in discussion each week in which both listening and close reading will be evaluated

60% will come from written assignments.

All assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for the class.

## Resources:

1) Students are asked to take one of the workshops Memorial Library offers History undergraduates

2) online resources:

◆ style handbook:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.web/chicagomanualstyle>

◆ sources:

[http://departments.kings.edu/womens\\_history/witch/witchlinks.html#sources](http://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/witch/witchlinks.html#sources)

netLibrary: *The Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola*, edited John C. Olin

3) Books on Reserve:

style handbooks:

Graff, Gerald, *They Say, I Say* (2010): PE1431 G73 2010

Booth, Wayne, et al, *The Craft of Research* (2008): Q180.55 M4 B66 2008

witch trials

Ankerloo, Bengt, & Gustav Henningsen, *Early Modern European Witchcraft* (1993):  
BF1584 E9 H3913 1993

Levack, Brian, *The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe* (2006): BF1571 L48 2006

*Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe* series: BF1566 W738

saints:

Weinstein, Donald, & Rudolph Bell, *Saints and Society* (1986): BX4659 E85 W44 1986

4) You may wish to purchase specific books in order to have better access to them. *The Craft of Research*, for example, is readily available through Amazon.

## Meetings and Assignments:

September 2	Introductions	
<i>Witches:</i>		
September 9	Identifying Sources: First Questions ♦ Why these sources?	please bring laptop to class
	 <a href="http://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/witch/witchlinks.html#sources">http://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/witch/witchlinks.html#sources</a>	
	 <a href="http://etext.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/">http://etext.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/</a>	
September 16	Note-taking: Group Discussion ♦ After looking at documents, what kinds of questions occur to you? ♦ Criteria for evaluating sources?	
	 Booth, <i>The Craft of Research</i> , Parts I & II	
September 23	meet in analytic pairs: evaluate one another's notes	Notes due to partner
September 30	Secondary Literature: ♦ How do we evaluate scholarship? ♦ How and why are our categories different? The same? ♦ What is a reliable study? What makes it reliable?	five minute reports Notes due
October 7	Thesis and Argument: Honing Your Questions:	Search engines essay
October 14	Presentations: Thesis statement	5-minute précis
October 21	Presentations: Thesis statement	5-minute précis Thesis statement 1
<i>Saints:</i>		
October 28	Reading Lives ♦ What makes a person a saint? According to whom?	please bring laptop to class
	 netLibrary: <i>The Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola</i> , edited John C. Olin	
November 4	Finding literature	5-minute oral reports
November 11	Categories of Analysis: saints	Thesis statement 2
November 18	Workshop for drafts	
November 25	Five-minute oral presentations: drafts	Polished draft
December 2	Five-minute oral presentations: drafts	
December 9	Conclusions & Last Questions	Final Research Essay