



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**History Programme**

**HIST 327: Special Topic in European History:  
Magic, Witchcraft and Politics in Early Modern Europe, c. 1500-c.1650**

**TRIMESTER 1 2012  
5 March to 4 July 2012**

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6–22 April 2012

Last piece of assessment due: TBA individually, but no later than 5pm Friday 8 June

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Glyn Parry

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Office hours: Wednesday 3.00-4.00pm

**Class times and locations**

**Lecture:** Wednesday, 1.10-3.00pm (EALT206) for the first four weeks of trimester 1, 2012.

Then student presentations to be announced in that time period at EALT206

## Course delivery

Eight overview lectures, practical demonstrations of research databases and other sources to be used by students, and student 'work-in-progress' presentations of their research findings.

## Communication of additional information

**Additional information** will be communicated in class and through Blackboard and email.

## Course Prescription

This course approaches the political history of the period by examining the wider cultural context. The polarisation of politics created by the Reformation and Counter-Reformation motivated many participants in early modern politics to attempt to destroy their political and religious opponents by utilising the magical powers their culture believed inherent in the cosmos. At the same time they used accusations of witchcraft and conjuring to stigmatise their opponents, while denying their own participation in magic. Studying the interaction of magic and politics through a series of test cases will therefore introduce students to new perspectives on both these areas of early modern history. They will learn that magical beliefs were an integral part of political life, and that issues of power, authority, resistance, and rebellion were often debated within the wider discourse of the legitimate and illegitimate use of occult powers.

## Course content

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|--------------|---|
| Wed 7 March  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <b>Early Modern Europe: the environment of magic</b></li><li>b) Demonstrations of Print Databases: <i>Early English Books Online (EEBO)</i>; <i>Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)</i></li><li>c) <b>The structure of the early modern cosmos</b></li></ul>  |
| Wed 14 March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <b>Politics in Early Modern Europe: Hierarchy, power, threats to power and laws against magic</b></li><li>b) Demonstrations of Manuscript on-line databases: <i>State Papers Online</i>; <i>MEMSO</i>; <i>A2A</i>; <i>Cecil Papers</i>; UK County Record Offices (e.g. Essex Record Office), The British Library, The Institute of Historical Research</li><li>c) <b>Religion in early Modern Europe: the Protestant and Catholic churches and magic</b></li></ul> |
| Wed 21 March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <b>Magic and magistrates: witchcraft, magic and local politics</b></li><li>b) Microfilms of manuscripts in VUW library: State Papers 1547 - 1625, Harley MSS, Lansdowne MSS, Rawlinson MSS, , Tanner MSS, John Dee MSS and books. Database of Trials: <i>English Reports</i></li><li>c) <b>Astrology and politics</b></li></ul>  |
| Wed 28 March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <b>Alchemy and politics</b></li><li>b) Defining your research project; how to annotate a bibliography</li><li>c) <b>The disappearance of witchcraft and magic from politics?</b></li></ul>   |
| Wed 4 April  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Your bibliography; planning your essay; designing a presentation</li><li>b) <b>2.10 to 3pm: Mid-term test</b> (15% of assessment)</li></ul>  |

## MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

Wed 25 April	ANZAC Day – University Closed
Wed 2 May	Student presentations on topics TBA (10% of assessment)
Wed 9 May	Student presentations on topics TBA (10% of assessment)
Wed 16 May	Student presentations on topics TBA (10% of assessment)
Wed 23 May	Student presentations on topics TBA (10% of assessment)
Wed 30 May	Student presentations on topics TBA (10% of assessment)
Wed 6 June	Student presentations on topics TBA (10% of assessment)

### **Learning objectives**

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. Understand the political history of early modern Europe to c. 1650 and comprehend the changing political role of magic and witchcraft in that period.
2. Appreciate the different historiographical approaches to those issues.
3. Carry out self-directed, primary - source based historical research with an awareness of the issues it raises and the techniques for solving those issues.
4. Write according to scholarly conventions, including proper citation and bibliographical identification of primary manuscript as well as printed materials, and of secondary printed materials.
5. Use full-text databases, microfilms, calendars and other research aids intelligently and accurately.
6. Apply the above skills to produce extensive written work to acceptable standards.
7. Present 'in-progress' reports on their research to the entire class.

### **Graduate attributes**

As with all History courses, learning objectives of HIST327 contribute to the attainment of specific graduate attributes. For more details please consult our website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/hist-overview>

### **Expected workload**

In accordance with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours in total to HIST327. This includes two hours of seminars per week, with the remaining time divided between preparation for short presentations to seminars and primary source based research and writing.

## Readings

### COURSE READING [NB online readings for this course under VUW Library's Course Reserve]

Initial Recommended Reading:

- 3DL & CR Patrick Collinson, *The Reformation* (2005) – brilliant short intro., multiple copies in VUW Library
- 3DL Geoffrey Scarre, *Witchcraft and magic in sixteenth and seventeenth-century Europe* (1987) - brief
- 3DL & CR Keith Thomas, *Religion and the decline of magic: studies in popular beliefs in sixteenth and seventeenth century England* (1971, 1973)
- 3DL Stuart Clark, *Thinking with demons: the idea of witchcraft in early modern Europe* (1996)
- 3DL Robin Briggs, *Witches & neighbours: the social and cultural context of European witchcraft* (1996, 2002)
- 3DL Brian Levack, *The witch-hunt in early modern Europe* (3rd ed., )
- 3DL Gary Waite, *Heresy, magic and witchcraft in early modern Europe* (2003).
- 3DL Glyn Parry, *The Arch-Conjuror of England: John Dee* (2011)

## Assessment requirements

This is an internally-assessed course. To pass the course students are required to:

- (a) Sit the mid-term test, based on lecture material, to be held on **Wednesday 4 April** at **2.10 – 3.00pm** (worth **15%** of assessment)

AND

- (b) Research and annotate a bibliography of primary (printed and/or manuscript) and secondary materials relevant to their chosen research topic, to be submitted by **5pm Monday 23 April** (worth **25%** of assessment)

AND

- (c) Present a 'work-in-progress' report on your research in the lecture time on dates TBA with me, (worth **10%** of assessment)

AND

- (d) Submit a research essay of **3,000 to 3,500** words based on primary and secondary sources, on an agreed topic, **on dates agreed with me** depending on the date of your presentation but not later than 8 June (worth **50%** of assessment)

## Marking criteria

**Test:** have you comprehended information, concepts and interpretations delivered in lectures?

**Class presentation:** can you outline your research, your findings and the issues they have raised clearly and concisely?

**Bibliography:** have you identified sufficient primary and secondary sources and do you understand their origin, nature and importance?

**Research essay:** have you read, understood, interpreted and analysed the primary and secondary sources, and have you presented your analysis in clear and comprehensive English, with proper scholarly apparatus?

### **Penalties**

History Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Students lose 5% for the first day late and 2% thereafter for a maximum of 10 working days. After 10 days, work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **all extensions require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. **Contact me as soon as a problem emerges**. Extension forms are available in the History Programme office (OK405).

Note that **Friday 8 June** is the final date on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, because this is the date on which we must certify whether students have met the course requirements. The provision for late submission with penalty does not apply beyond this date.

### **Return of marked course work**

Annotated Bibliographies and tests will be returned during lectures. If students fail to attend, they may collect their essay from the History Programme Office in level 4, Old Kirk Building on weekdays between the hours of 2pm and 3pm and must show their Student ID card before collection.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- (a) Submit the written work specified for this course, on or before the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

AND

- (b) Present to the class as specified above, and **be present** for **all** fellow students' presentations **2 May to 6 June**, when a register will be taken, unless you have previously been excused by me because of illness.

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator, tutors and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

### **Statement on legibility**

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study). Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).