

HIST 717: THE SACRED AND PROFANE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

Time: CNH 614 Friday 10:30am-1:30pm

Instructor: Dr. M. Armstrong

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OFFICE HOURS: Friday 9:30-10:30am

The purpose of this thematic course is to develop a rich understanding of the Catholic Tradition at a time of dramatic political, social, economic and intellectual change. The underlying assumption of this course is that Early Modern Catholics viewed the sacred and the profane as dynamic and interconnected facets of their religious culture, and that this view of the sacred informed their political, social, intellectual and economic structures as well.

Required Books:

Carlos Eire, *From Madrid to Purgatory: The Art and Craft of Dying in Sixteenth Century Spain* (1995; rptd 2002).

David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence*. Princeton, 1998.

Helmut Puff, *Sodomy in Reformation Germany*. 2003.

Brad Gregory, *Salvation at Stake*

Articles: Available through online databases such as J-Stor and uploaded on the course web page on AVL.

ASSIGNMENTS

This course requires MA students to produce two written assignments and prepare weekly course readings for discussion. **PhD students** will produce an **additional written assignment** and read a supplementary reading each week.

Class Participation (MA 35%; PhD 30%)

Students will earn 50 percent of their participation mark simply by attending the weekly seminar. The remaining 50 percent will be assessed according to the student's understanding of the weekly readings and participation in discussion.

Short historiography paper (MA 25%; PhD 20%)

Students will write a short historiographic paper on the readings for one of the week. The paper should be no more than 1200 words.

Major Paper (MA 40%; PhD 30%)

The students will produce a major paper (20 pages or 5000 words) on one facet of early modern Catholic spirituality. The paper may be historiographic or research-oriented in nature. The topic will be chosen in consultation with the Supervisor.

PhD Exam (20%)

PhD students taking this course as a minor field will be also be expected to write an exam.

Late Penalties

Work handed in late without a doctor's note will lose 3% a day including weekend days.

Academic Integrity

“Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism or the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. Failure to adequately reference material that you use in an essay is plagiarism.
2. Improper collaboration in group work

Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Email Communication

It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Modifications to Course Outline

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

WEEKLY TOPICS

WEEK 1 (Jan 14): INTRODUCTION

WEEK 3 (Jan 21): Sacred Space

*Sarah Hamilton and Andrew Spicer eds, intro. "'Defining the Holy: The Delineation of Sacred Space,'" in *Defining the Holy: The Delineation of Sacred Space in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, pp. 23.

*"A Northern Jerusalem: Transforming the spatial Geography of the convent of Wienhausen" in *Defining the Holy*, 139-160.

Christopher Marsh, "Sacred Space in England, 1560-1640: The View from the Pew," *Ecclesiastical History* 53 (2002): 286-311.

**these articles will be scanned and circulated to you as pdfs.*

WEEK 4 (Jan 28): Liturgy

John Bossy, "The mass as a social institution 1200-1700" *Past and Present* 100 (1983): 29-61

Caroline Bynam Walker, "Fast, Feast and Flesh: The religious significance of food to Medieval women" *Representations*, 1985.

Charles Zika, "Hosts, processions and pilgrimages: Controlling the Sacred in Fifteenth-Century Germany," *Past and Present* (1988): 25-64.

WEEK 5 (Feb 4): Death

Carlos Eire, *From Madrid to Purgatory*, Parts I and II

WEEK 6 (Feb 11): Martyrdom

Brad Gregory, *Salvation at Stake*

WEEK 7 (Feb 18): Image and Iconoclasm

Wandel, L. "Envisioning God: Image and Liturgy in Reformation Zurich," *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 24 (1993): 21-40

Freedburg, D. "The Hidden God: Image and Interdiction in the Netherlands in the Sixteenth Century," *Art History* vol 5 (1982): 133-

Historiography Assignment due in class this week

WEEK 8 (FEB 25): READING WEEK

WEEK 9 (MAR 4): Religious Syncretism, and Religious Coexistence

Keith Luria, "Separated by Death? Burials, Cemeteries and Confessional Boundaries in Seventeenth-Century France" *French Historical Studies* 24 (2001): 185-222.

Lyndal Roper, "Going to Church and Street: Weddings in Reformation Augsburg," *Past and Present* 106 (1985): 62-101

R.W. Scribner, "Incombustible Luther: The Image of the Reformer in Early Modern Germany" *Past and Present* 110 (1986): 38-68.

Mario Turchetti, "Religious Concord and Political Tolerance in Sixteenth and Seventeenth-Century France," *Sixteenth Century Journal* 22 (1991): 15-25.

WEEK 10 (MARCH 11): Religious Violence

David Nirenburg, *Communities of Violence*

WEEK 11 (MARCH 18): The Body and Society

Helmut Puff, *Sodomy in Reformation Germany*

WEEK 12 (MARCH 25): RESEARCH PAPER STUDY

WEEK 13 (APRIL 2): WRAP UP

Papers due