

College of Humanities

Carleton University

HUMS 4903A Witchcraft, Crime and Social Disorder in Early Modern England

Fall 2013

Wednesdays 8.35-11.25 PA111

Professor Dr. David Dean

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Office hours: Wednesdays 3.00-4.00 or by arrangement

Course Description

This seminar invites you to consider the ways in which narratives of othering shaped the mental world of 16th and early 17th century England. Our objective will be to examine how concepts of order and disorder played out in the decades following the break with Rome. These were years of religious controversy, economic stress, and social upheaval, yet they were also marked by a remarkable degree of stability. We will explore this period through a close reading of texts such as proclamations, court records and crime reports, and imaginative literature such as popular pamphlets and plays. The seminar will begin by reviewing key secondary sources discussing society and religion, government, and concepts of order and disorder. We will also read selected primary sources to familiarise ourselves with the language and rhetoric of the period. Our attention will then shift to the stage play world of Elizabethan and Jacobean England, exploring the vibrant print and performance culture that allowed a variety of voices to compete for attention. These investigations will help contextualise and inform our reading of primary sources clustered around themes such as witchcraft and magic, crime, plague and poverty, sexuality, gender, and family. Finally, we will bring all of this to bear on a critical reading of, and performative engagement with, the collaborative play *The Witch of Edmonton* by William Rowley, Thomas Dekker and John Ford.

Course requirements

Students are expected to attend all seminars, to come prepared to discuss and engage with each other having read the assigned readings and having had time to think about them. Readings will be available on reserve in the Main Library or available online through the Library catalogue. Some primary sources will be distributed in class, as we needed. A scholarly edition of *The Witch of Edmonton* has been purchased for you and will be given out at our first meeting (cost: \$10.00). You must complete **all** components listed under course evaluation in order to be considered to be in good standing.

Course Evaluation

- 30% of your final grade will be assigned for seminar participation, broken down as follows: overall seminar participation 10%; class presentation on a secondary reading 10%; class presentation on a primary source 10%. Further details on presentations will be given at our second meeting on September 11th.
- 30% of your final grade will be a mid-term paper offering a critical engagement with sources related to the themes of the class. It is due on Wednesday November 6th. Further details will be given out at our second meeting on September 18th.
- 40% of your final grade will be in the form of a take home examination consisting of a research paper on a topic of your choosing but approved by me. You are free to consult others in the preparation of your paper but the final submission must be your own work. It will be due on 22 December. Further details will be given out in class the week before the Fall break.

Class Schedule (Subject to Adjustment)

A more detailed schedule with required and suggested readings will be handed out at our first meeting on September 11th.

Week One (Sept 11): **Introduction and First Reading of *The Witch of Edmonton***

Week Two (Sept 18): **Continuities and Change: Early Modern English society**

Week Three (Sept 24): **Patriarchies and Paternalism: Regulating (and Constructing) the Other**

Week Four (Oct 2): **Religion, Belief, Magic: the Idea of the Witch**

Week Five (Oct 9): **Families, Households and Domestic Violence**

Week Six (Oct 16): **Crime and Prosecution**

Week Seven (Oct 23): **Popular Culture: Pamphlets and Plays**

Fall Break (Oct 30)

Week Eight (Nov 6): **London's Stage-Play World**

Week Nine (Nov 13): **Critical Performances: Dramatising Difference**

Week Ten (Nov 20): ***The Witch of Edmonton*: Reading and discussion**

Week Eleven (Nov 27): ***The Witch of Edmonton*: Reading and discussion**

Week Twelve (Dec 4): ***The Witch of Edmonton*: Reading and discussion**

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please **contact** the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library