Witches, Heretics, and Social Outcasts in Europe

Course Outline

Week One
a. Medieval Heresy: Introduction
b. What is a heretic?

Week Two
a. Cathars
b. Cathars: Sources and Debates

Week Three
a. Waldensians
b. Waldensians: Sources and Debates

Week Four
a. Heresy of the Free Spirit
b. Beguines: Sources and Debates

Week Five
a. Pre-reformation heresy in England and Europe
b. Wycliffe and Hus: Sources and Debates

Week Six
a. Martin Luther and the Advent of Protestantism
b. The Origins of the Reformation: Sources and Debates [SLP]

Week Seven
a. Religious radicals in the early modern period [SLP]
b. Essay returns and individual tutorials

Week Eight
a. Leprosy [SLP]
b. Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Europe [SLP]

Week Nine
a. Witches and Witchcraft
b. Witches and Witchcraft: Sources and Debates [SLP]

Week Ten
a. Conclusions
b. Revision tutorials

[SLP: student led presentation]
Additional Information

1. Seminars

Attendance at all seminars is compulsory, and students are expected to prepare for each class by reading items from the appropriate section of the course bibliography below.

Seminars annotated [SLP] in the course summary above involve student-led presentations, in small groups. All students are asked to choose a topic for a group presentation from the list that will be circulated at the start of term.

Some seminars will be structured around ‘sources and debates’, and will involve either an informal discussion of selected primary source materials (see bibliography below), or a more formal presentation of the sources.

2. Essays

All students are required to write two essays. A full list of essay questions may be found below. The first essay must be submitted on Monday of week 6. The second essay must be submitted on Monday of week 10. Both essays must be accompanied by a completed coversheet. Remember that there are penalties imposed upon over-length work, and essays that are submitted after the deadline. The first essay will be returned to students by Tuesday of week 7. Individual tutorials are offered to students who wish to discuss their work. Marks and feedback for the second essay will be available at the end of term. Both essays will be retained by the department for review by internal and external examiners.

3. Electronic Resources

There is a course web page for this module, accessible via my personal pages at [www.rdg.ac.uk/~lhs99hlp](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/~lhs99hlp). The website reproduces much of the information contained in this handbook, and will be updated with additional materials if necessary. If you find any useful online source materials yourself that you think might be useful to the class, I will be pleased to add these to the online module information.

4. Contact

My office is HUMSS 138, and I am available to see students without an appointment during my regular ‘office hours’. I can be reached by telephone (x8145), or email h.l.parish@rdg.ac.uk
Essay Questions

‘The historian faces acute problems of evidence when studying the behaviour, motives and beliefs of the heretic’ (Malcolm Lambert). Discuss.

Compare and contrast the studies by Moore and Nirenberg of the position of medieval minorities.

‘The problem of medieval heresy was creation of a developing, empire-building Church.’ Discuss.

Why did the Catholic church persecute Waldensianism so vigorously?

How successful was the Albigensian Crusade in suppressing the Cathar heresy?

To what extent was the suppression of the heresy of the Free Spirit the result of non-doctrinal concerns?

How influential was the thought of John Wycliffe in fifteenth century Lollardy?

Why were lepers excluded from medieval society?

To what extent can the popularity of Hussitism be explained by political factors?

How far were sixteenth century European attitudes towards Jews shaped by medieval precedents?

Why were Anabaptists so feared by Catholic and Protestant churches?

How successful was the medieval church in its attempts to separate magic and religion?

How important was the *Malleus Maleficarum* in shaping early modern attitudes to witchcraft?
Text Books and Introductory Works


D. Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages* (Princeton, 1996) [also an e-book]

J. Richards, *Sex, Dissidence and Damnation: Minority Groups in the Middle Ages* (London, 1991)

R.N. Swanson, *Religion and Devotion in Europe, c.1215-c.1515* (Cambridge, 1995), chap. 8 ‘Inclusion and Exclusion’


Primary Source Collections:


R. Mellinkoff, *Outcasts: signs of otherness in Northern European art of the later Middle Ages*, 2 vols., (Los Angeles, 1993) [on visual representations]


W. L. Wakefield and A. P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (New York: Columbia U.P., 1991) (covers the early part of the course)
Online Source Materials

The Internet medieval sourcebook at http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1s.html#Medieval%20Heresy

The online reference book for medieval studies at: http://www.the-orb.net/ which also includes some good introductory essays

A student project at Kenyon on marginality and community: http://www2.kenyon.edu/Projects/Margin/margin.htm

Details of printed primary sources used in seminars can be found under each subject heading.
TOpIC ONE: Identification and Repression: What is a heretic?


R.I.Moore, The Formation of a Persecuting Society (1987) for a slightly earlier period

Malcolm Lambert, Medieval Heresy: Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation (Blackwells, 2002)

Richard Kieckhefer, Repression of Heresy (1979)


Gordon Leff, Heresy in the Later Middle Ages: the Relation of Heterodoxy to Dissent, c.1250-1400, 2 vols (1967)


G.Waite, Heresy, Magic and Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe (2003) chapter 3

Set text

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Montaillou (1978 and other editions) ch. 18, 19 and 21
TOPIC TWO: Cathars and the Albigensian Crusade

Background Reading on Dualism
Janet Hamilton and Bernard Hamilton, *Christian Dualist Heresies in the Byzantine World* (1998) also available online at www.medievalsources.co.uk

Cathars and the Albigensian Crusade

R. I. Moore, *The Origins of European Dissent* (1977: reprinted University of Toronto Press, 1994) ch.6-8
M. Barber, ‘Catharism and the Occitan nobility’, in his *Crusaders and Heretics* (Brookfield, 1995)
Michael D. Costen, *The Cathars and the Albigensian Crusade* (Manchester, 1997)
Milan Loos, *Dualist Heresy in the Middle Ages* (Prague, 1974)

Online sources

Essay at ORB: http://www.the-orb.net/textbooks/crusade/albig.html
Primary Sources

Cathars


Albigensian Crusade


TOPIC THREE: Waldensians


Waldensians: Primary Sources


The *Conversion of Peter Waldo*: [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/waldo1.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/waldo1.html) (Medieval Source Book)

Waldes, in Wakefield and Evans, *Heresies*, no. 30 and no. 33; and in Moore, *Birth of Popular Heresy*, no. 34.
TOPIC FOUR: Heresy of the Free Spirit

M. Bailey, Battling Demons. Witchcraft, Heresy and Reform in the Late Middle Ages (2003) chapter 3
F. Beer, Women and Mystical Experience in the Middle Ages  (Boydell, 1998)
F. Bowie, Beguine Spirituality (SPCK, 1989)
D. Bornstein and R. Rusconi ed., Women and religion in medieval and renaissance Italy (1996)
H. Grundmann, Religious movements in the Middle Ages: the historical links between heresy, the Mendicant Orders, and the women’s religious movement in the twelfth and thirteenth century, with the historical foundations of German mysticism (Univ Notre Dame, 1995)
G. Jantzen, Power, Gender and Christian Mysticism (Cambridge, 1995)
Robert Lerner, The Heresy of the Free Spirit (1972)
Carol Neel, ”The Origins of the Beguines” in Judith M. Bennett, et. al., ed. Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages (Chicago, 1989)

Online essays and articles:

http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~eknuth/xpxx/beguines.html
Primary Sources: Beguines

F.Tobin (Mechthild of Magdeburg) *Flowing Light of the Godhead*, (Paulist Press, 1998)

Online Sources:

[Marguerite Porete: The Mirror of Simple Souls](http://www2.kenyon.edu/Projects/Margin/porete8.htm) By Bonnie Duncan of the English Department at Millersville University. Marguerie Porete was a Beguine condemned and executed for heresy in 1310.
[Na Prous Bonnet](http://www2.kenyon.edu/Projects/Margin/naprous.htm) (Boneta) was condemned as a Beguine in 1325.
The Condemnation of the Beguines at the [Council of Vienne, 1311-12](http://www.dailycatholic.org/history/15ecume5.htm)
TOPIC FIVE: Pre-Reformation Heresy. Wycliffe and Hus

Wycliffe and Lollardy

Margaret Aston, Lollards and Reformers: Images and Literacy in Late Medieval Religion (London, 1984)
Margaret Aston and Colin Richmond, eds, Lollardy and the Gentry in the Later Middle Ages (Stroud, 1997), BX4901.2.L6.
Margaret Deanesly, The Lollard Bible and other Medieval Biblical Versions (Cambridge, 1920)
Anne Hudson, Lollards and their Books (London, 1985)
Anne Hudson and Michael Wilks eds., From Ockham to Wyclif: Studies in Church History Subsidia, 5 (1987)
Anthony Kenny, Wyclif (Oxford, 1985)
Kenneth B. McFarlane, John Wycliffe and the beginnings of English Non-conformity (Harmondsworth, 1952)
Richard Rex, The Lollards (Basingstoke and New York, 2002), BX4901.2.R3

Jan Hus

Norman Cohn, The Pursuit of the Millennium, ch. 11.
F. G. Heymann, John Zizka and the Hussite Revolution (Princeton, 1955)
http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/History/?type=article&byte=1090043&isize=M
G. A. Holmes, ‘Cardinal Beaufort and the Crusade against the Hussites’, *English Historical Review*, 88 (1973), 721-50


F. Smahel, ‘John Hus, Heretic or Patriot?’ *History Today*, 40 April (1990), 27-33


### Pre-Reformation Heresy: Primary Sources

**Lollardy**

J.Todd ed., *An Apology for Lollard Doctrines attributed to Wycliffe*, Camden Society 1st series no. 20 (1842)


**Jan Hus**

T.Fudge, *The Crusade Against Heretics in Bohemia, 1418-1437*,(Aldershot, 2002),

TOPIC SIX: The Advent of the Reformation

Overview

Cooper, T., ‘Reassessing the Radicals’, Historical Journal, 50 (2007), 241-52
The European Reformatons Sourcebook (Oxford, 2000).
The Age of Reform 1250-1550 (New Haven, 1980).
Scribner, R & Johnson, T., Popular Religion in Germany and Central Europe 1400-1800 (Basingstoke, 1996).
Scribner, R.W 'Elements of popular belief,' in Handbook of European history, 1400-1600: late Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation ed.T.A. Brady, Jr., H.A. Oberman, J.D. Tracy (Leiden / New York, 1994).
Swanson, R.N., Religion and Devotion in Europe, 1215-1515 (Cambridge, 1995).

Online sources:
TLTP tutorial "The Protestant Reformation", accessible via History Department web site
Primary Sources: The Radical Reformation

Klaassen, W., 'The Anabaptist understanding of the separation of the church,' Church History, 46 (1977).
Po-Chia Hsia, R., 'Münster and the Anabaptists,' in his German People and the Reformation (Ithaca, 1988).
Scott, T., Thomas Muntzer. Theology and Revolution in the German Reformation (Basingstoke, 1989).

Primary Sources

The Schleitheim Confession 1527: http://www.anabaptists.org/history/schleith.html
TOPIC SEVEN: Leprosy

P. Richards *The Medieval Leper and his Northern Heirs* (1977)

S. Brody *The Disease of the Soul: Leprosy in Medieval Literature* (1974)


C. Ginzburg *Ecstacies: Deciphering the Witch’s Sabbath* (1993), ch.1


M. Dols ‘The leper in medieval Islamic society’, *Speculum*, 58 (1983)


Online sources:
http://www2.kenyon.edu/Projects/Margin/lepers.htm

ORB article on medieval medicine: http://www.the-orb.net/non_spec/missteps/ch4.html

Leprosy: Primary Sources

The Bible: http://www2.kenyon.edu/Projects/Margin/biblep.htm
Testament of St. Francis: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/stfran-test.html
Extracts from the Poem of the Cid:
http://historymedren.about.com/gl/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.hi.umich.edu/cgi/p/pd%2Dmodeng/pd%2Dmodeng%2Didx%3Ftype=header%26id=SoutRChron
Excerpts from the life of Alice the Leper, a nun who became a leprous martyr:
http://www2.kenyon.edu/Projects/Margin/alice.htm

P. Elmer and O. Grell (eds), Health, disease and society in Europe, 1500-1800: a sourcebook (Manchester, 2004)
TOPIC EIGHT : Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

S. Almog, Anti-Semitism Through the Ages (Oxford, 1988)


A. Funkenstein, ‘Basic types of Christian anti-Jewish polemics in the late Middle Ages, Viator 2 (1971) 373–382
J. I. Israel, European Jewry in the age of mercantilism, 1550–1750, 1985
H.C. Lea, A History of the Inquisition in Spain available online at http://libro.uca.edu/lea1/1lea.htm


R. Mellinkoff, Outcasts: signs of otherness in Northern European art of the later Middle Ages, 2 vols., (Los Angeles, 1993)
M.E. Perry and A.J. Cruz eds., Cultural Encounters. The Impact of the Inquisition in Spain and the New World (1991) especially Part II. Available online at http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft396nb1w0/

D. Wood (ed.), Christianity and Judaism, Studies in Church History 29 (1992)
J. Edwards, The Jews in Western Europe (online resource): http://www.medievalsources.co.uk/jewsinwest.htm
Anti-semitism: Primary Sources
J.Edwards, *The Jews in Western Europe* (online resource):
http://www.medievalsources.co.uk/jewsinwest.htm
An account of the York Massacre (late 12th century):
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/ephr-bonn1.html
Innocent III: *Constitution* (1199)
The Fourth Lateran Council (1215) http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/lat4-c68.html

Martin Luther, *Of the Jews and their Lies* http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/1543-Luther-JewsandLies-full.html
TOPIC NINE: WITCHCRAFT

Medieval Magic and Witchcraft

Michael D. Bailey, Battling Demons: Witchcraft, Heresy and Reform in the Late Middle Ages (Philadelphia, 2003)
Alison Beardwood, The Trial of Walter Langton, Bishop of Lichfield (Philadelphia, 1964)
Norman Cohn, Europe’s Inner Demons (London 1975)
Richard Kieckhefer, Magic in the Middle Ages (Cambridge, 1989)
Richard Kieckhefer, European Witch Trials: their Foundations in Popular and Learned Culture, 1300-1500 (London, 1976),
David Rollo, Glamorous Sorcery: Magic and Literacy in the High Middle Ages (Minneapolis, 2000)

Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe

M.Bailey, Battling Demons. Witchcraft, Heresy and Reform in the Late Middle Ages (2003)
S.Clark, Languages of witchcraft : narrative, ideology, and meaning in early modern culture (2001)
S. Clark, Thinking with Demons. The idea of Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe (1997)
R. Kieckhefer, *The European Witch Trials. Their Foundation in Popular and Learned Culture.* (1976)
G. Scarre, *Witchcraft and Magic in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Europe*
J.A. Sharpe, ‘Witches and Persecuting Societies’, *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 3 (1990), 75-86

**The Malleus Maleficarum, Witchcraft and Women**
R. Briggs, *Witches and Neighbours*, chapter 7 (the gendering of witchcraft)
R. A. Horsley ‘Who were the witches?’, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 9 (1979)
Online Articles


Primary Sources:

Primary Sources

OR in *Proceedings against Dame Alice Kyteler*, ed. T. Wright, Camden Society 1st series, no. 24 (1843).

*The Malleus maleficarum of Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger*, trans. Montague Summers (1971) or online at [www.malleusmaleficarum.org](http://www.malleusmaleficarum.org)

Primary sources online at ORB: [http://www.the-orb.net/encyclop/culture/magwitch/magic.html](http://www.the-orb.net/encyclop/culture/magwitch/magic.html)

Put yourself on trial for witchcraft at [http://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/witch/hunt/](http://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/witch/hunt/)

*Links to websites detailing individual witch trials may be found on the course website*
CONCLUSION: Heresy and Exclusion 1250-1550

Survival and Revival


M. Aston, ‘Lollardy and the Reformation: Survival or Revival?’, *History*, 49 (1964), 149-70


