

Syllabus Basics HST124 History of Magic

Methods of contact/teaching:

- Moodle site, including forums and quizzes, and AMAs on magic and COVID-19
- Email
- Telegram channel
- readings as PDFs via Moodle
- intro to topics as audio file lectures to accompany PDFs of texts, quotes and images
- optional drop-in Zoom classes and office hours

Assignments:

Participation in Moodle forums – 10%

Participation in creating course vocabulary list – 5%

Groupwork marking a mock source analysis paper – 10%

Groupwork finding or making a magical image – 10% (provision of image with full citation OR creation of image following an actual historical tradition of image magic, in either case the image must be accompanied by and explanation of relevance to course and why chosen)

Pop quizzes, practical homework, and surveys (quizzes and practical homework marked; surveys pass/fail, submission is a pass) 20%

Draft source analysis paper 1 – 5% (pass/fail, submit a draft to pass)

Source analysis paper 1 20%

Source analysis paper 2 20%

EXTRA CREDIT 5 marks – “source analysis” of a film featuring magic OR self-created assignment (both kind of extra credit should be arranged with professor)

Deadlines:

Quizzes and surveys will be accessible for a specific period. Make-up quizzes are permitted on request.

Essay, practical homework, and source analysis deadlines are recommended deadlines; you can submit those assignments up to 5 days late with no penalty; further extensions can be requested. You are strongly recommended to try and hand in the assignments when recommended, as otherwise you will get behind on the course and will struggle to submit assignments before the final deadline.

FINAL DEADLINE: I must submit all your grades to the registrar by 14th December, and marking takes time. For this reason, I will not accept any work of any kind after 5pm, Monday 7th December.

Essential Readings and Other Resources

All weekly readings will be provided on the Moodle page for this course.

You will find a glossary (a list of useful terms) and other resources you may find helpful here:

<https://routledge-textbooks.com/textbooks/9781138808102/>

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to Magic 1		
	Introductions	Syllabus	Online needs survey
	What is Magic?	Collection of magic-related images	
Week 2	Introduction to Magic 2		
	The Long History of Magic	"A Sorcery Trial from the Second Century CE," from Levack, B.P., 2015. <i>The witchcraft sourcebook</i> . Routledge.	Syllabus quiz
	How to Read Sources	Choose at least 3 spells to read in the excerpt from Marvin W. Meyer and Richard Smith, eds., <i>Ancient Christian Magic: Coptic Texts of Ritual Power</i> (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999) AND Guide to reading primary sources	
Week 3	Ancient World Divination 1		
	Introduction to Divination	"Zodiac" reading AND https://www.elle.com/horoscopes/daily/ AND "Personal Daily Horoscope" on https://www.astro.com/horoscopes	Practical Homework: Work out your star sign, then find your own horoscope for this week/today

	Divinatory traditions	„PGM IV, 154-285,“ from Hans Dieter Betz, ed. <i>The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation</i> , 2nd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992).	
Week 4	Ancient World Divination 2		
	Divinatory Traditions Continued	“Necromancy,” from Ogden, Daniel. <i>Magic, witchcraft, and ghosts in the Greek and Roman worlds: a sourcebook</i> . Oxford University Press, USA, 2002. AND “The Witch of Endor,” from Levack, B.P., 2015. <i>The witchcraft sourcebook</i> . Routledge.	Marking the mock source analysis paper
	Divinatory Traditions Continued	http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-CUL-00001-00155/4 AND “Oracle-Bone Inscriptions of the Late Shang Dynasty,” from Sources of Chinese Tradition, compiled by Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, 2nd ed., vol. 1 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 8, 11-12.	
Week 5	Medieval Magic and Illusions 1		
	Introduction to Magical Illusions	Sections from Kieckhefer, Richard. <i>Forbidden rites: a necromancer’s manual of the fifteenth century</i> . Penn State Press, 1998.	
	Illusions and Medieval Necromancy	Sections from Kieckhefer, Richard. <i>Forbidden rites: a necromancer’s manual of the fifteenth century</i> . Penn State Press, 1998.	
Week 6	Medieval Magic and Illusions 2		
	Against Magic	“Thomas Aquinas: Scholasticism and Magic” from Levack, B.P., 2015. <i>The witchcraft sourcebook</i> . Routledge.	
	Against Magic	“The University of Paris: A Condemnation of Magic” from Levack, B.P., 2015. <i>The witchcraft sourcebook</i> . Routledge.	Draft source analysis paper 1
Week 7	Image Magic and Magic Objects 1		
	Image Magic and Magic Objects	https://innerlives.org/2018/10/15/image-magic-drawing-the-history-of-sorcery-ritual-and-witchcraft/	

		AND "Voodoo Dolls and Magical Images," from Ogden, Daniel. <i>Magic, witchcraft, and ghosts in the Greek and Roman worlds: a sourcebook</i> . Oxford University Press, USA, 2002.	
	Image Magic and Magic Objects	Go to https://prm.web.ox.ac.uk/terms-use-pitt-rivers-museum-database-object-collections Put the term "magic" into the description bar, and see what kinds of object appear in the collection list	
Week 8	Image Magic and Magic Objects 2		
	The Voodoo Doll	https://www.brown.edu/Departments/Joukowsky_Institute/courses/13things/6577.html AND https://www.brown.edu/Departments/Joukowsky_Institute/courses/13things/6719.html	Source analysis paper 1
	Voodoo Dolls and Poppets	https://museumofwitchcraftandmagic.co.uk/exhibitions/2017-exhibition-poppets-pins-and-power-the-craft-of-cursing/ AND https://museumofwitchcraftandmagic.co.uk/object/3848-apple-doll/ AND https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Voodoo-Doll	
Week 9	Sceptics 1		
	Early Sceptics	"Scot: The Unreality of Witchcraft," from Levack, B.P., 2015. <i>The witchcraft sourcebook</i> . Routledge.	
	Doubting Confessions	"Frias: The Unreliability of Confessions" from Levack, B.P., 2015. <i>The witchcraft sourcebook</i> . Routledge.	
Week 10	Sceptics 2		
	Modern Witchcraft Laws	Witchcraft Suppression Acts, 1957 and 1970 (South Africa) https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Witchcraft_Suppression_Act,_1957 https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Witchcraft_Suppression_Act,_1970	
	Houdini and Spiritualism	Harry Houdini, "How I Unmask the Spirit Fakers", <i>Popular Science</i> (November 1925), 12-14 and 152-156. https://books.google.kz/books?id=aycDAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PP1&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false	Practical Homework: write a letter to Houdini

		AND Harry Houdini, "How I Do My 'Spirit Tricks'", <i>Popular Science</i> (December 1925), 12-13 and 150-155. https://books.google.kz/books?id=4ygDAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PP1&pg=PA12#v=onepage&q&f=false	by one of the mediums he unmasked
Week 11	Early Modern Witchcraft Trials 1		
	The Witchcraft Trials	https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/a-brief-history-of-the-salem-witch-trials-175162489/ And https://innerlives.org/2019/09/16/witches-at-night-creative-responses-to-early-modern-witch-trials/	
	Reading Trial Records	http://salem.lib.virginia.edu/swp-intro.html	
Week 12	Early Modern Witchcraft Trials 2		
	Salem –Beginnings	https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/7x3jbq/the-true-story-of-tituba-the-slave-at-the-center-of-the-salem-witch-trials AND Interrogations of Tituba http://salem.lib.virginia.edu/n125.html	
	Salem – The End and The Aftermath	"The Apology of the Salem Jury", 1697	Practical Homework: Reply to the apology from the perspective of one of the accused witches
Week 13	Magic on Stage 1		
	Magic on Stage	Houdini "On Conjuring" AND https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/art-golden-age-magic-posters-180974304/	Source analysis paper 2

	Séance as Performance	https://theconversation.com/how-the-ouija-board-got-its-sinister-reputation-66971 AND https://publicdomainreview.org/collection/photographs-from-a-seance-with-eva-carriere-1913	
Week 14	Magic on Stage 2		
	Paper Magic	Sections from Houdini, Harry. <i>Houdini's Paper Magic</i> . The Minerva Group, Inc., 2001.	
	Magic Tricks	Sections from Houdini, Harry. <i>Houdini's Paper Magic</i> . The Minerva Group, Inc., 2001.	Practical Homework: Pick a trick from the Houdini book and try it out OR tell me about a magic trick you can already do OR one you found yourself and tried out
TBC			Groupwork finding or making a magical image Extra Credit