

**History 4416F**  
**Witchcraft in the Early Modern World**  
**Winter 2024**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mitchell Hammond

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**Office:** Department of History, Lawson Hall 2218

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of people—mostly women—were tried and executed for the crime of witchcraft in Europe and beyond. Why were Europeans and their descendants so fearful of witchcraft? What do accusations and trials reveal about the beliefs and social structures of the early modern world? Our course will explore these questions and also focus on developing and drafting an original research essay.

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

In this class students will build the following competencies and skills:

1. Identify and describe key events and concepts related to witchcraft in the early modern world.
2. Evaluate diverse forms of historical evidence and cultivate interpretive skills
3. Strengthen writing skills in history and related disciplines
4. Engage with faculty and peers in a collaborative, respectful atmosphere

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

*Students must submit all written assignments to pass the course. **In this seminar, class participation is especially important.** Students are expected to attend weekly seminars throughout the term and to prepare for the discussions, rough draft exercise, and other activities.*

<b>Seminar Attendance and Participation:</b>	<b>30%</b>
(this includes leadership in one class (5%), a rough draft evaluation exercise on Wednesday, November 20 (5%), and general participation (20%)	
~ <b>1200-word assignment</b> due Friday, October 4	<b>10%</b>
~ <b>5000-word essay</b> , including the components below:	<b>60%</b>
Prospectus (10%), due Wednesday, October 23	
<b>Rough draft (20%), due Friday, November 15 (crucial deadline)</b>	
Final essay (30%), due Wednesday, December 4	

Make-up final exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

## ABSENCES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

- Class participation is an important component of this class and roll will be taken weekly. Students may miss two sessions (**with the exception of November 20**) without penalty. Thereafter, 5 points will be deducted from the final course grade for absences without a formal academic consideration. Students with more than four class absences for any reason cannot complete the course.
- The first essay (due October 4) and the final essay (due December 4) may be turned in up to 3 days late without penalty. Thereafter, these assignments will not be accepted without a formal academic consideration. **The rough draft deadline of November 15 is firm.** Late submissions will receive a 10% deduction and drafts will not receive credit after Monday, November 18.

## Course Materials

Reading and advance preparation are essential for a successful class. Assignments will be based on class readings or materials that students find in their own research.

### *Required Text:*

Brian Levack, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Routledge, 2016)

Other readings will be made available in OWL or through Weldon Library.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

- The best way to reach me outside of class is by e-mail: [mhammo42@uwo.ca](mailto:mhammo42@uwo.ca). You are welcome to drop by my office during the office hour or we can arrange appointments at other times (either in person or Zoom).
- Please limit your use of devices to note taking and class-related activity. That goes especially for phones!
- **All work submitted in this course must be your own.** You may not use any generative or analytical AI tools such as ChatGPT for assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:

[https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

