

Dr. Darleen Pryds
Franciscan School of Theology/Graduate Theological Union
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tel. 510-848-5232 ext. 21
email: dpryds@fst.edu
<http://courseweb.fst.edu/pryds>

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HSSP 4572 History of Christian Persecution of Minorities **Tuesdays, 2:10-5:00 FST Classroom**

The troubling history of persecution in the name of the Christian faith is the subject of this advanced Master's Level Seminar. Tracing the transformation of Christianity from being a persecuted faith to becoming a persecuting one, this course studies focuses on Medieval Europe and looks at the development of crusade, preaching, and inquisitions as Christian means of overcoming perceived enemies defined as infidel and heretic. The course takes a close look at Christian treatment of various minorities including groups defined by faith perspective, gender, sexual orientation and Christian heterodoxy in order to examine the cultures and societies which have lived in interfaith/intercultural peace and cooperation and those which have not.

Because of the broad subject matter, students are encouraged to view their semester-long research project as the time to pursue research in an area of interest that is not being addressed in the readings and lectures.

Course evaluation will be based on active participation in class (20%), oral presentations of readings (20%), analytical summaries of readings (20%), and a research paper/oral presentation (40%). The evaluation standard for each student depends on his/her degree program. Students in research oriented degree programs (Ph.D., M.A.) will be evaluated on ability and performance of critical analysis of material and logical presentation of arguments. Students in professional/pastoral degree programs will be expected to complete the readings, follow analytical discussions and actively look for pastoral applications of material.

The final oral presentation and written paper are based on your own research through the semester. They are considered the culmination of a semester's worth of work and together are worth 40% of your final grade. It is best not to procrastinate on this important project. Ph.D. and M.A. students are expected to write a 20-25 page paper with a 40 minute oral presentation; MTS students are expected to write a 15 page paper with a 25-40 minute presentation; M.Div./MAMC students are expected to write a 10-15 page paper with a 25-40 minute presentation.

Required Reading:

Mark Cohen, Under Cross and Crescent. Jews in the Middle Ages

Brian Levack, The Witch-Hunt of Early Modern Europe

David Nirenberg, Communities of Violence. Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages
Jeffrey Richards, Sex, Dissidence and Damnation. Minority Groups in the Middle Ages

Additional Required Readings are in a Reader available for purchase at Copy Central on Hearst.

Recommended Readings:

Mary Douglas, Purity and Danger. An Analysis of the Concepts of Pollution and Taboo

R.I. Moore, The Formation of a Persecuting Society

Edward Peters, Inquisition

-----, Torture. Expanded Version.

Jeffrey Burton Russell, Dissent and Order in the Middle Ages. The Search for Legitimate Authority

Elaine Scarry, The Body in Pain. The Making and Unmaking of the World , esp.Ch. 1, “The Structure of Torture”

Schedule of Classes

September 2: Introduction and Background--Lecture

Lecture:

History as an Academic Discipline

Expectations for Analysis of Course Material

Overview of Medieval Church History

Professor will present Chapters 1, 2, 6 of Jeffrey Richards as a model of how to give an oral presentation of a chapter

To Prepare for Class begin reading Jeffrey Richards, Sex, Dissidence and Damnation, esp. Ch. 1, 2, 6.

September 9: Overview of Medieval Persecution of Minority Groups—Lecture and Discussion

Lecture: Theological and Historical underpinnings of Christian Persecution of Minorities

Professor will present Chapters 3-5 of Richards, Sex, Dissidence, and Damnation

General Discussion, critique of Jeffrey Richards, Sex, Dissidence and Damnation

To Prepare for Class Read: Complete Reading Richards, Sex, Dissidence and Damnation

September 16: Analyzing and Interpreting Christian Persecution: Secondary Literature

Lecture: The Church’s Tools of Ostracism

To Prepare: Read Section One in the Reader

Film Clips: Name of the Rose; Saint Joan

September 23: Researching Persecution

Meet in the GTU Library for first half of class

Lecture: Interpreting Primary Texts: Document Based Question (DBQ)

To Prepare for Class Read: Read Documents in Section Two in the Reader and be prepared to discuss fully the documents and possible interpretations of them.

September 30: The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Reassessing Historical Interpretation

Lecture: Historical Background to CoV

Presentations on Chapters of Communities of Violence.

To Prepare: Read Chapters 1-4 in Communities of Violence

October 7: Using Primary Sources to Interpret the Past

Lecture: The Role of the State in Persecution

Presentations on Chapters of Communities of Violence

To Prepare: Read Chapters 5-7 + Epilogue of Communities of Violence . Pay special attention to the use of footnotes. What sources does Nirenberg use and how does he use them to present and narrate a different interpretation of the history of the persecution of minorities?

Take Home Midterm will be passed out today. It is due on October 14. NO EXCEPTIONS EXCEPT WITH DOCUMENTED PROOF OF EXTREME CAUSE.

Take Home Midterm Exam: Read the documents in the DBQ and answer the Question in a 5 –7 page paper, double spaced (with font no larger than 12 pt.) You may not consult with one another on this exam, but you may use outside secondary materials. If you use any outside sources, give complete citation in footnotes.

October 14: Research Workshop: Midterms are Due at the Beginning of Class

1.) Preliminary student presentations on research projects (5 minutes each)

2.) Discussion of Document Based Question (DBQ): Hands-On Historical Interpretation (Be prepared to discuss your interpretation of the DBQ as you presented it in your Written Midterm Exam).

October 21: No Class: Reading Week

October 28: Interfaith Relations

Lecture: How Muslims, Christians and Jews Interacted in the Middle Ages

To Prepare: Actively read Under Crescent and Cross, chapters 1-5 and be prepared to analyze the text together. Be prepared to recite the thesis, sources used, argumentation.

November 4: Interfaith Relations

Lecture: Crusades and the notion of Christian Holy War

To Prepare: Actively read Under Crescent and Cross, chapters 6-10 be prepared to analyze the text together. Be prepared to recite the thesis, sources used, argumentation.

November 11: Women Known as Witches

Lecture: The Early Modern Break from the Medieval Past

To Prepare: Actively read The Witch-Hunt of Early Modern Europe, chapters 1-4 and be prepared to analyze the text together. Be prepared to recite the thesis, sources used, argumentation.

November 18: Women Known as Witches

Lecture: Christian Views of Women

To Prepare: Actively read The Witch Hunts of Early Modern Europe, chapters 5-8 and be prepared to analyze the text together. Be prepared to recite the thesis, sources used, argumentation.

November 25: Reaching Conclusions

Lecture: Applications of Lessons from the Medieval Past to Modern and Contemporary Cases of Persecution

December 2: Student Presentations

December 9: Student Presentations