Honors 424  
Spring 2016

Magic, the Occult and Art in the Early Modern Period

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: None

Instructor Dr. Liliana Leopardi

Course Description:
In this course, students will explore the surprisingly central role that magic and the occult played in the early modern period (Middle Ages and the Renaissance). Students will become familiar with definitions of popular magic, as well as magie savante (alchemy, geomancy and necromancy) as well as with artistic manifestations, such as relics, art objects, gems and talismans. Astrology, the art of divination and talismans will be considered in the context of the dreams of the Renaissance magus so that students may also consider how mysticism, magic and science were intertwined in the Medieval and Renaissance period.

Restrictions:  
Course recommended for students with some background in art history and philosophy.

Essential Facility:  
Computer and Digital Projector.

How to contact:  
Email: LLeopard@chapman.edu or ll348@nyu.edu  
Cell: 212.380.3299

Office Hours:  
Office hours will be held before and after class by appointment.
Honors Program Learning Outcomes
Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:

a. Obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
b. Sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
c. Understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;
d. Developed effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.

Course Goals, Objectives and Content:

I. Historical Context
Acquire the critical and technical vocabulary to describe, analyze, and formulate arguments about the relationship between religion, magic and philosophy.
Students will learn to evaluate the importance of the mystic and the magus as cultural ideals of the past, in order to place them accurately in their historical context.

II. Art Historical Knowledge (Historical Knowledge)
Students you will gain a deeper insight into the appearance of magical themes and motives in the works of art of Italian Renaissance Artists. Through the written assignments students will be able to critically examine the religious motivations of phenomena like witch hunt, torture, anti-semitism, cultural and gender persecution.
Students will develop an awareness of the use of appropriate terminology and techniques and how those relate to methods of interpretation. Critical analysis skills will be used in order to identify various themes and their interrelationships. Various types of formal, visual, diachronic and thematic analysis will be employed.

III. Critical Thinking Skills
Thesis formulation, research skills and source evaluation and presentation
Students will learn how to produce argumentative statements and papers based on thesis formulation, research skills, source evaluation and presentation of their written work.
Students will analyze relationships among statements, questions, concepts, descriptions, or other forms of representation intended to express beliefs or ideas.

Major Study Units:
1) The Philosopher as Magician;
2) Philosophy and the Ancient Mysteries;
3) Real Magic;
4) Theory of Magic;
5) Love Magic;
6) Magic in art: Botticelli's Paintings;
7) Talismans and Charms, Precious Gems and Cameos; and
8) Demonology and the Witch Trials.
Textbooks:

Instructional Methods:
The course will consist of lectures and class discussions, weekly handouts, and analysis of works of art and architecture in their cultural, political, and religious context.

Methods of Evaluation:
Students will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance, slide exams and a research paper.

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Participation in discussions</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper (15 pages, topics to be concurred)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Additional Requirements for Graduate Students:
N/A.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Students with Disabilities:
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. Upon recommendation of the Center for Academic Success, adaptations of teaching methods, class materials, including text and reading materials or testing may be made as needed to provide for equitable participation.
2/5 Week 1: Lecture: Introduction to class; explanation of plan for term; Sources of Medieval Magic
   Readings: Kieckhefer *Magic in the Middle Ages* (ch. 1-2)
   Article: Magic and Rationality handed in class.

2/12 Week 2: Lecture: The Ancient and Medieval Cosmos, the Hierarchy of Being and the Theoretical Foundations of Magical Practice. Germanic and Celtic Magical practices
   Reading: Kieckhefer, ch. 3 and 4 and article on Blackboard

2/19 Week 3: Lecture: Magic and the Medieval Educated Elite: Astrology and Alchemy; Islamic and Jewish Magic, Al-kindî on stellar rays; Divination.
   Reading: Kieckhefer, ch. 6 and articles on blackboard

2/26 Week 4: Lecture: Necromancy, “Black” Magic and Curse Tablets
   Reading: Kieckhefer, ch. 7 and articles on blackboard

3/4 Week 5: Lecture: Magic and Religion: Witches and Witchcraft
   Reading: Kieckhefer, ch. 8 and articles on blackboard

   **Review for Midterm**

   MIDTERM

3/18 Week 7: Lecture: Love and Magic in the Renaissance – Ficino and Eroticism
   Reading: Couliano, ch. 2
   Ruggiero, ch. 1

   **FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE**

3/25 Week 8 SPRINGBREAK

4/1 WEEK 9: Lecture: Love and Magic in the Renaissance – Dangerous Liaisons
   Reading: Couliano, ch. 3
   Ruggiero, ch. 2

4/8 Week 10: Lecture: Love and Magic in the Renaissance – bodily fluids and magic
   Reading: Couliano, ch. 4
   Ruggiero, ch. 3

4/15 Week 11: **Presentations**
   Lecture: Love and Magic in the Renaissance – Pneumatic Magic
   Reading: Couliano, ch. 5
   Ruggiero, ch. 4
4/22 Week 12: Lecture Love and Magic in the Renaissance – Intersubjective Magic
   Reading: Couliano, ch. 6
   Ruggiero, ch. 5

   Reading: Couliano, ch. 7
   Articles on blackboard

5/6 Week 14: Lecture: Magic and the Hermetic Tradition
   Reading: Articles on Blackboard

5/13 Week 15: Presentations and Review – FINAL PAPER DUE

FINAL: Tuesday MAY 17th at 1.30pm
Bibliography:

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Benziger Bros., New York, 1948, I,q.1,2


*The Second Book*, pp.21-47.


Kramer, Heinrich and Sprenger, James *Malleus Maleficarum*, Dover Publications, New
York,


Smith, A. Mark, “Knowing things inside out: the scientific revolution from a medieval perspective,” in *American Historical Review*, 95.3, 1990, pp.726-744


**Additional Suggested Readings**


2000.


Montrésor, Carlo *The Opera del Duomo Museum in Florence*, La Mandragora, Firenze, 2000, „The Panels” _Room_.

Stephens Walter, *Demon Lovers, Witchcraft, Sex and the Crisis of Belief*, University of Chicago Press, 2001, Chs. I, II.

**Online Reference & Research Tools:** *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* online
http://www.rep.routledge.com/LOGIN?sessionid=0643ea835f4c07fd636bf87fccb41650&aut hstatuscode=400
Dynamic online resource for researching, teaching and studying in the philosophy arena and related disciplines.

*The Orb*
http://www.the-orb.net
The ORB is an academic site, written and maintained by medieval scholars for the benefit of their fellow instructors and serious students. All articles have been judged by at least two peer reviewers. Authors are held to high standards of accuracy, currency, and relevance to the field of medieval studies
The Labyrinth http://www8.georgetown.edu/departments/medieval/labyrinth
The Labyrinth provides free, organized access to electronic resources in medieval studies through a World Wide Web server at Georgetown University. The Labyrinth's easy-to-use menus and links provide connections to databases, services, texts, and images on other servers around the world.
Internet Medieval Sourcebook http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html
The WWW Virtual Library History Index
http://www.msu.edu/~georgem1/history/medieval.htm
This list of on-line references is maintained by The Michigan State University Graduate Student Medieval and Renaissance Consortium

Prepared by: Liliana Leopardi, Ph.D.

Last Revised by: Liliana Leopardi, Fall 2015