

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ART
ONE UNIVERSITY DRIVE
ORANGE, CA 92866**

COURSE SYLLABUS

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 magic 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:

1. Richard Kieckhefer, *Magic in the Middle Ages*, revised edition (Cambridge University Press/Canto). ISBN 0521785766
2. Iona P. Culinaiu, *Eros and Magic in the Renaissance* (Chicago University Press, 1987 ISBN 0-226-12316-2
3. Guido Ruggiero: *Binding Passions: Tales of Magic, Marriage and Power at the End of the Renaissance* (this book is available **via ebook** at Chapman Library)

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.

In-class midterm exam	20%
Final exam	25%
Reading questions	10%
Participation in discussions	15%
Presentations	5%
Paper (15 pages, topics to be concurred)	25%

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-kindī 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

3/11 Week 6: Lecture: *Medieval Magic in the Modern Era*. The Renaissance Synthesis of Magical Traditions. Agrippa’s *On Occult Philosophy*. Natural Magic 1: magic, medicine and marvels. Marsilio Ficino

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

4/29 Week 13: Lecture: Love and Magic in the Renaissance – Demons and Eros
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

Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I,4.5.7; Book X,6.7, World Library Classics, 2009, pp.4-7,11-15,261-266.

Boas, Marie Hall, *The Scientific Renaissance, 1450-1630 (The Rise of Modern Science II)*, Dover Publications, New York, 1994, Ch V, *The frame of man and its ills*, pp.129-165; Ch VI, *Ravished by magic*, pp. 167-196.

Book of Job, Matthew, Acts: Simon the Magician, Harper Collins Publishers,1992

Brown, Peter, *The Cult of the Saints*, The University of Chicago Press, 1981, Ch 6 *Potentia*, pp.106-127.

Brucker, Gene, *Renaissance Florence*, University of California Press 1983, „The Monastic World“, pp.188-201;

Bruno, Giordano, *Essays on magic, in Cause, principle and unity; Essays on Magic* (translated and edited by Richard J.Blackwell), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, New York 1998, pp. 115-123; 165-9.

Bruno, Giordano, *The Expulsion of the Triumphant Beast*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln and London, 2001, pp. 234-253.

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Chesterton, G.K., *St. Francis of Assis*, Doubleday, New York, 2001, pp.59-149

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Chs:
III, V, pp.45-73, 96-117.

Cohn, Norman, *Europe's Inner Demons*, Pimlico, London, 1993, Prelude in Antiquity.

Couliano, Ioan P., *Eros and Magic in the Renaissance*, The University of Chicago Press,
1987, Ch 10, *Doctor Faust, from Antioch to Seville*, pp.209-223.

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Selected
and edited by Irma A. Richter, 1998, pp.6-12, 110-123, 195.

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pp.571-575.

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The Second Book, pp.21-47.

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Publishing, Washington, D.C., 1960, pp.1-15.

Elliot, Dyan. *Proving Woman: Female Spirituality and Inquisitional Culture in the Later Middle Ages*, Princeton University Press, 2004, pp.180-119

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Ficino, Marsilio, *Three Books on Life*, The Renaissance Society of America, Tempe,
Arizona,
1998, pp.243-264

Finocchiaro, Maurice A. *The Essential Galileo*, Hackett Publishing, 2008, pp.103-190

Frazer, James George, *The Golden Bough* Penguin Books, London, pp.13-54.

Galilei, Galileo, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1967, pp. 29-35, 110-113, 320-337, 410-411.

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Garin, Eugenio, *Renaissance Characters*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1997, „The Philosopher and the Magus“, pp.123-153.

Gilson, Étienne. *Dante the Philosopher*. Trans. D. Moore. London: Sheed and Ward, 1948, pp. 1-58.

Glendon, Mary Ann. *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Random House, New York, 2001, Preface, Epilogue, pp.xv-xxi; 235-241

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Hood, William, *Fra Angelico at San Marco*, New Haven 1993, pp. 108-131.

Kieckhefer, Richard, *Magic in the Middle Ages*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2000, Ch.2 The Classical Inheritance, pp.19-42.

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Kors, Alan C and Peters Edward, *Witchcraft in Europe 1100-1700, A Documentary History*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1972, pp.48-73, 82-83, 98-101, 195-216, 266-279, 358-359.

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Yates, Frances A, *Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1971, Ch I, *Hermes Trismegistus* Ch III Ficino's Natural Magic, pp.1-19.

Additional Suggested Readings

Cohn, Norman, *Europe's Inner Demons*, Revised Edition, Pimlico, London, 1993.

Kieckhefer, Richard, *Magic in the Middle Ages*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge,

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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>

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