

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title	Course Code	Classroom and Time
Witches: Myth and Reality	CENS 307 (3 credits)	Tue./Thu., 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Mathematics Annex 1100 Discussion rooms (dates TBA): D01: Buchanan D-204 D02: Buchanan D-312 D03: Lasserre 102

CENS 307 examines ideas of the witch, witchcraft, and magic from their early historical constructions to recent cultural adaptations. Following these ideas and their relationship to the creation of outsiders, our main topics will be early pagan and Christian religious beliefs; the conflict and overlap of these beliefs in the medieval and early modern periods, including the height of the witch hunts; images of witches in folklore and fairy tales; recent representations of witchcraft in literature, film, and other media; and contemporary witchcraft. The reading and viewing assignments consist of witch-related materials, including historical records; literary, film, and other media representations; scholarly analyses; and other work examining witches, witchcraft, and magic from numerous perspectives.

Some of the material we will read/view contains disturbing themes and imagery about topics such as death, illness, racism, violence, torture, murder, suicide, and animal harm. Speak with the professor if you have concerns.

CONTACTS

Professor	Contact Details	Office Location	Office Hours
Dr. Kyle Frackman (he/him)	kyle.frackman@ubc.ca Tips: "How to email your profs effectively"	Buchanan Tower 925 or Zoom	Thu., 1-2:00 p.m. Sign up for a time slot on Canvas (under Calendar) UBC Learning Commons Tips: "Making the Most of Office Hours"
TAs	Contact Details	Office Location	Office Hours
John O'Hara (he/him or they/them)	johara8@student.ubc.ca	Buchanan Tower 999B or Zoom	Wed., 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Dante Prado (he/him)	dprado@mail.ubc.ca	Buchanan Tower 999B or Zoom	Mon., 4-5:00 p.m. (Zoom) Thurs., 2-3:00 p.m. (by appointment in Buchanan Tower 999B)

SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WS = Brian P. Levack, ed., *The Witchcraft Sourcebook*, 2nd ed. <https://courses.library.ubc.ca/i.TGWLb4>

I recommend downloading Levack's entire book, which you can do if you follow this link and the one in LOCR.

**** = Reading posted in Modules, not LOCR**

Date of Class	Prepare for Class	In Class
Thu., Sep. 7	n/a	Introduction and Course Overview What is a “witch”?
Ancient and Early Magic		
Tue., Sep. 12	• O'Donnell Setel, “Witch” • WS, “The Witch of Endor” (7–9), “Curse Tablets” (14–15), “Love Magic in Antiquity” (25–26)	Definitions Ancient Witches
Thu., Sep. 14	• ***“The Greenland Prophetess” (121–23) • Neil Price, <i>The Viking Way</i> (191–93) • Lindow, ***“Freyja” (126–28), ***“Seid” (265) • <u>optional</u>: Lindow, **“Æsir” (49–51); ***“Galdrar” (132–33), ***“Norns” (243–45), **“Vanir” (311–12); ***“Æsir-Vanir War” (51–53)	Viking Age Beliefs and Nordic Magic Quiz #1 due
Tue., Sep. 19	• watch recorded lecture • WS, “Canon Law and Witchcraft” (35–37)	No Class (Prof away)
Thu., Sep. 21	• Frackman, Legal Codes in Transition	
Medieval and Early Modern Witchcraft		
Tue., Sep. 26	• Levack, “Chapter 1: Introduction” (1–29) • <u>optional</u>: WS, “The University of Paris: A Condemnation of Magic” (49–52)	Overview of the Witch Persecutions Early Modern Context

Date of Class	Prepare for Class	In Class
Thu., Sep. 28	- WS, "Johannes Nider: An Early Description of the Witches' Sabbath" (54–57) - WS, "Innocent VIII: Papal Inquisitors and Witchcraft" (137–40) - WS, "Heinrich Kramer: <i>Malleus Maleficarum</i>" (59–71)	The Devil Diabolical/Satanic Witchcraft Quiz #3 due
Tue., Oct. 3	- WS, "Heinrich Kramer: The Torture of Accused Witches" (141–45) **Levack, "State-Building and Witch-Hunting in Early Modern Europe" (185–97)	Investigations and Trials
Thu., Oct. 5	**Norman Cohn, "The Demonisation of Medieval Heretics" (31–36) <u>optional</u>: **H.C. Erik Midelfort, "Heartland of the Witchcraze" (99–106)	Sabbaths, Child Sacrifices, and Antisemitism Quiz #4 due
Tue., Oct. 10	- WS, "The Confession of Walpurga Hausmännin" (193–98) - WS, "The Confessions of Johannes Junius at Bamberg" (214–18) **Lyndal Roper, "Oedipus and the Devil" (324–35)	Meet in Discussion Sections Confessions and Torture
Thu., Oct. 12		No Class UBC's "Make-Up Monday": Your Monday classes meet on this day at their regularly scheduled time and location.
Tue., Oct. 17	<i>The Burning Times</i> (film) - Diane Purkiss, "A Holocaust of One's Own" (7–29)	"Burning Times" and "Woman-Hunting"
Thu., Oct. 19	Martin Luther, "Chapter 3: Sermons on the First Epistle of St. Peter" (87–97); "On the Epistle to the Galatians" (103–109; 347–49)	Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation Quiz #5 due

Date of Class	Prepare for Class	In Class
Tue., Oct. 24	Hans Sachs, "How the Devil Took to Himself an Old Wife," "The Man Who Fled His Scolding Wife from Heaven to Hell," "The Dead Man"	Media Revolution and Protestant Literature
Thu., Oct. 26	- Levack, "The Decline of Witchcraft Persecutions" (341–48) - WS, "Friedrich Spee: A Condemnation of Torture" (163–70, excerpts) - WS, "Baruch Spinoza: The Non-Existence of the Devil" (372–73)	End(s) of the Witch Hunts
Tue., Oct. 31	Take Midterm Exam (online)	Midterm Exam (online) No Class Session
Puritanism and the Salem Crisis		
Thu., Nov. 2	<i>The Witch</i> (film) - P.G. Maxwell-Stuart, <i>Witchcraft in Europe and the New World, 1400–1800</i> (88–99)	Puritanism, Colonialism, and Witch Beliefs Quiz #6 due
Tue., Nov. 7	- Mary Beth Norton, <i>In The Devil's Snare</i> (Introduction, 3–13) <i>Three Sovereigns for Sarah</i> (film, on CLAS—<u>watch approx. the first hour, optional after that</u>)	Colonialism and Witchcraft The Salem Crisis
Thu., Nov. 9	- WS, "The Salem Witchcraft Trials" (285–94) - Breslaw, <i>Tituba, Reluctant Witch of Salem</i> (107–132)	Meet in Discussion Sections Colonialism and Witchcraft: Tituba and Race End of the Salem Crisis Quiz #7 due
MIDTERM BREAK (Nov. 13–15)		
The Fairy and Folk Tale Witch		
Thu., Nov. 16	- Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, "Hänsel and Gretel," "Snow White," "Briar Rose" - Tatar, "From Nags to Witches"	Folk and Fairy Tale Witch

Date of Class	Prepare for Class	In Class
Tue., Nov. 21	- Reimund Kvideland & Henning Sehmsdorf, "Milking with a Knife" (171–72), "Hallvor Drengmann's Son" (174), "The Neighbor Who Stole the Milk" (175), "The Carrier" (179), "The Burning Mill" (181–82) - Sibelan Forrester, "Baba Yaga I" (3–4)	Meet in Discussion Sections Folk and Fairy Tale Witch
The Media Witch		
Thu., Nov. 23	<i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i>, "Gingerbread" (TV episode, on CLAS) - Are, "A 'Chosen' Hope with a 'Gingerbread' Outcome"	Witchcraft and Crises Quiz #8 due
Tue., Nov. 28	<i>American Horror Story: Coven</i>, "Boy Parts" (TV episode) - Dara Downey, "Tracing Tituba through <i>American Horror Story: Coven</i>" <u>optional</u>: Foltz, "The Commodification of Witchcraft" (137–68)	Witches Today, the Media Witch
Contemporary Witchcraft and Magic		
Thu., Nov. 30	*Diane Purkiss, "Modern Witches and their Past" (379–84) - Wheeling, "What Does It Mean to Be a Witch Today?"	Modern Witchcraft Quiz #9 due
Tue., Dec. 5	- Magliocco, "New Age and Neopagan Magic" - Discussion questions for visitors	Modern Witchcraft Visitors in Class (<i>tentative</i>)
Thu., Dec. 7		Conclusion Quiz #10 due
FINAL EXAM PERIOD		

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course (i.e., with active attendance and participation, completion of reading and writing assignments, and exams), students will be able to:

1. Describe the origins of Western ideas of witchcraft and magic
2. Describe characteristics, causes, and effects of witch persecutions in the medieval and early modern periods
3. Compare witches and magical figures in various cultural and historical contexts and time periods

4. Relate identity categories like gender, race, religion, class, etc. to the creation of outsider figures

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

iClicker

We will be using iClicker Cloud (freely available to you). Participating in the iClicker sessions is required. It will count toward your grade and will also be used to check understanding of important concepts and to gauge your opinions on related subjects. You will receive 1 point for each correct answer. Some questions will just require participation. You may participate in a web browser or via the iClicker student app on a smartphone, tablet or laptop. You must set up an iClicker account and add our course to your account. The steps are listed here: UBC's iClicker student guide is available here: <https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/iclicker-cloud-student-guide/>. For troubleshooting, contact UBC IT (near the bottom of the guide). Use join code VGQJ or click here: <https://join.iclicker.com/VGQJ>.

LEARNING MATERIALS

All course materials will be available via Canvas (<https://canvas.ubc.ca>) or Library Online Course Reserves (LOCR, <https://courses.library.ubc.ca/c.cCW5n8>).

ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING

Grade Breakdown

Attendance and Self-Assessments	15%
Quizzes and Assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam or Assignment	35%

Attendance and Self-Assessments

Attendance in lecture is required, and your active participation is requested. Punctuality is also appreciated. The daily sessions will include intervals for individual work and small group discussions. This portion of the grade includes iClicker engagement and responses. Students may also make appointments to meet the professor and/or TAs outside of class to discuss course material. Students who have missed six or more class sessions may not complete the final assignment.

We will collaboratively assess your participation in and preparation for the course, relying in part on your self-assessments. These self-assessments are in place to encourage you to take ownership of your own learning. They will inform this portion of your overall course grade. You will reflect on your engagement with course materials such as lectures, class activities, reading and viewing assignments, and note-taking. I expect you to be honest in these assessments and want you to take your time in completing them.

Quizzes and Assignments

You will complete regular quizzes (primarily multiple-choice) which will track your progress in our class. These quizzes are designed to make sure you are following the reading/assignment schedule. They are also educational tools that help you think critically about the material covered.

Midterm and Final Exams

You will complete take-home midterm and final examinations. The midterm will cover the course materials leading up to it; the final exam will be partly cumulative. *Optional Final Assignment:* A creative work may take the place of the final exam. The final assignment will allow you to showcase your thinking on critical matters pertaining to the ideas we address in the course. You will receive a detailed assignment description later in the term. Students who have missed six or more class sessions may not complete the final assignment.

Bonus Witch-related Material

You may submit witch- and/or magic-related material for bonus grade percentage points. Examples include news articles, popular media, songs, memes, videos, websites, events, etc. If the materials are relevant and useful for the class, a point/percentage value will be set by the professor. You may earn up to 2% in additional points.

UBC Grading Scale

A+	90–100%	B+	76–79%	C+	64–67%	D	50–54%
A	85–89%	B	72–75%	C	60–63%	F	< 50%
A-	80–84%	B-	68–71%	C-	55–59%		

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Visit <https://students.ubc.ca/support/>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work; nor should you help others to do so. UBC's policies on Academic Honesty and Standards are available here: <https://vancouver.calendar.ubc.ca/campus-wide-policies-and-regulations/academic-honesty-and-standards>.

As a student, your number one task is to learn new things. Just like your professors, however, you are a member of a university scholarly community. As a part of this community, you are responsible for engaging with existing knowledge and contributing ideas of your own. Academics—including you!—build knowledge through rigorous research that expands on the contributions of others, both in the faraway past and around the world today. This is called scholarship. Academic integrity, in short, means being an honest, diligent, and responsible scholar. This includes:

- Accurately reporting the results of your research.
- Taking exams without cheating.
- Completing assignments independently or acknowledging collaboration when appropriate. Collaboration through group work is an effective way to learn. I will clearly indicate when you should collaborate, for example during in-class group work and on some online homework assignments.
- Creating and expressing your own original ideas.
- Engaging with the ideas of others, both past and present, in a variety of scholarly platforms such as research journals, books by academics, lectures, etc.
- Explicitly acknowledging the sources of your knowledge, especially through accurate citation practices.

Any work you submit for this course, including but not limited to discussion posts, quiz responses, midterms, tests, finals, exams must be your original work done by you. Anything you use in your

written work, directly or indirectly, must be cited (e.g., if you are paraphrasing or using a quotation, if you are using class notes or lecture slides, etc.). *Not citing or referring to the quotation and the original source may constitute academic dishonesty.* Unless explicitly part of the assignment, you are expected to work individually. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise, and harsh sanctions are imposed. Incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the Dean's Office and/or President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. All UBC policies regarding academic misconduct apply in this course.

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools is strictly prohibited in all course assignments unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor in this course. This includes ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools and programs.

For written assignments and help with plagiarism and citation, see the [Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication](#). *Feel free to ask the professor and TAs about academic integrity.*

Adapted from <https://academicintegrity.ubc.ca/>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Contact/Communication

All class announcements will appear on Canvas. I recommend receiving Canvas announcements in your email; you can manage Canvas notifications on this page: <https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/canvas-student-guide/#manage-canvas-notifications-9>. I check email 1–2 times per day, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. If you email me, I will do my best to respond within 1 “business day.” If I haven’t responded in 2 days, please send me a follow-up message. This also applies to all correspondence with the course TAs. **Please include a subject line and use your full name.** To make your emails more effective, check out this guide: <https://students.ubc.ca/ubclife/inbox-1-email-profs-effectively>. If you have more complex questions, please make an appointment to meet with one of us in office hours. (Sign up for a time slot in the Canvas Calendar.)

If you feel sick...

If you are experiencing cold- or flu-like symptoms (or of Covid-19), please stay at home and take care of yourself. Contact the professor or TAs as soon as you can so that we can assess your situation in the class.

Assignment Due Dates and Extensions

Assignment deadlines are set to help you manage your time, to help your learning, and to allow the professor/TAs time to assess your work. Grades on any late assignments will be reduced by 33% for every day beyond their original due date. If you require an extension due to health concerns, personal emergency, or other accommodations, please get in touch with the professor as soon as possible. Anyone who registers for CENS 307 remains responsible for the earlier assignments and course material.

Grade Grievances

If you disagree with a grade that you have received and want to challenge it, you must follow the policy described below. I reserve the right not to consider your request if you do not follow this policy.

1. Wait 24–48 hours after you receive the grade.
2. Email the professor a statement fully explaining your complaint or disagreement.
3. Make an appointment to meet with the professor to discuss your written complaint/question.
4. The professor will send a decision to you by email after our meeting.
5. If you disagree with this decision, please request a meeting with the Head of the Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies, Dr. David Gramling, and Dr. Frackman to discuss the matter further.

6. In cases involving academic conduct, see the UBC policies described below and listed online.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Please act ethically, practice academic integrity, and treat fellow students, the TAs, and the professor with dignity and respect. We will make decisions ethically and fairly, treat you with dignity and respect, and pay attention to individual circumstances. Please actively participate in discussions, respond to questions in lectures, and support the learning of all students in the class and your own. We will be available to answer questions and provide support to help your learning. Please communicate with us if you find yourself struggling with material. We will reach out if we notice that you are missing assignments or classes. We may also use [Early Alert](#) as a way to provide further support for those who may be struggling.

If you use an electronic device in class, please refrain as much as possible from activities not related to your notes or class work. It is distracting to you, your classmates, and the teaching team.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: <https://students.ubc.ca/support/>.

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability that affects your learning in the classroom or your performance on assignments or exams, please contact the [Centre for Accessibility](#) in Brock Hall.

Academic Advising

If you need guidance with degree progress or if you need to apply for an academic concession to help you deal with extraordinary circumstances that are affecting your success, reach out to [Academic Advisors](#).

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We work hard to provide all the materials you need to succeed in this course. In return, please respect our work. All assignment instructions, quiz questions and answers, discussion questions, announcements, PowerPoint slides, audio/video recordings, Canvas modules, and any other materials provided to you by the teaching team are for use in CENS 307 by students currently enrolled. It is unacceptable to share any of these materials beyond our course, including by posting on file-sharing websites (e.g., CourseHero, Google Docs). It is unacceptable to copy and paste sentences from teaching materials into for-profit software (e.g., Quizlet) for use in studying. Respect the teaching team's intellectual property and follow copyright law. You may not record classes, lectures, discussions, etc. without explicit permission.

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