

Paper Number:

135.103

Paper Title:

Magic and Witchcraft

Credit Value:

15 credits

Calendar Prescription:

A multidisciplinary study of magic and witchcraft in selected societies in different time periods.

Pre and co requisites:

None.

Semester:

Two

Campus:

Palmerston North

Mode:

Extramural

E-Learning Category:

S (web supported)

Paper Coordinator and lecturer contact details:

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Status of contact or block courses (if applicable):

None

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this paper should be able to:

- engage empathetically but critically with both the exponents and critics of magic and witchcraft in selected societies
- show how magic and witchcraft illustrate the beliefs, values, structures, and social tensions within particular societies
- demonstrate an appreciation of the significance of primary sources (including texts, images, and artefacts)
- locate suitable sources of information
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the relevant secondary literature
- present informed and reasoned interpretations in well-structured, accurately written essays, with appropriately formatted referencing

Major Topics or paper structure:

In their many guises, magic and witchcraft have been important features of most

societies, whether approved of or feared by non-practitioners. While some people have claimed esoteric knowledge, others have been wrongly accused of consorting with evil spirits. This paper examines attitudes towards and the practice of magic and witchcraft in four different contexts: the Greek and Roman world, medieval Europe, early modern Europe and early post-contact Māori society.

Each society is treated separately from a historical perspective, using study materials prepared by different members of the School of History, Philosophy, and Classics. Drawing on the relevant academic literature as well as primary sources, students are introduced to the most important forms of magic and witchcraft in each context. Throughout the paper, the study of magic and witchcraft is used to illuminate beliefs, values, structures, and tensions within the societies concerned.

Assessment Proportions:

Internal Assessment : 40%

Final Examination: 60%

Description of assessment activities:

Two 1200 word essays (40%).

A three hour final examination (60%).

Due Dates / Deadlines:

The due dates for assignments (and any other internal assessment components) will be advised at the start of the semester.

Final examination dates can be found at

<http://study.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/studymassey/search.cfm?view=paper>

Penalties for late assignment submission:

None.

Assignment turnaround:

Fifteen working days from due date, or from date handed in, whichever is the later.

Any specific requirements for passing the paper:

None.

Principal Textbooks:

There is no textbook for this course.

Background readings:

Graf, F., *Magic in the Ancient World*, Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Jolly, Karen Louise, Catharina Raudvere, and Edward Peters, *Witchcraft and Magic in Europe: the Middle Ages*, London: Athlone, 2002.

Kieckhefer, Richard, *Magic in the Middle Ages*, Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University, Press, 1989.

Levack, Brian P., *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe*, Harlow, England and New York: Longman/Pearson, 3rd ed. 2006.

Scarre, Geoffrey, and John Callow. *Witchcraft and Magic in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Europe*, 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001.

