

## **Religion 46: Inquisition, Heresy, and Popular Culture Scott Sessions**

**Time and Location: Spring 2010, Tues., 2:00–4:30 PM, Chapin 210  
Office Time: Wed. 11:00–12:00, Chapin 112, and by appointment  
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(413) 542-8215**

This seminar explores the history and legacy of institutions and practices developed by the Roman Catholic Church to address heresy from the twelfth to nineteenth century. Using a combination of primary and secondary materials, we will examine the legal and theological foundations of heresy inquisition, the methods and procedures employed, the movements and offenses pursued, and the experiences and testimonies of men and women involved in these proceedings. Focusing on cases from various European polities and colonial dominions, we will address issues such as religious conformity and social control; the changing nature of orthodoxy and heterodoxy; the efficacy of evangelization and the sincerity of conversion; race, gender, class, and cultural dynamics; and the use of inquisition records as a window into popular beliefs and practices. Attention also will be given to pertinent scholarly interpretations and debates, related church pronouncements, and critically examining the image of “The Inquisition” in literature, the arts, and popular discourse.

### **Required Readings:**

**Books available for purchase at Amherst Books (8 Main St.)  
and on reserve at Frost Library:**

**Edward Peters, *Heresy and Authority in Medieval Europe: Documents in Translation*** (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1980). AC/Reserve BT1319.P47  
**Edward Peters, *Inquisition*** (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989). AC/Reserve BX1712.P48 1988  
**Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller***, trans. John and Anne Tedeschi (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980). AC/Reserve BR877.F74.G5613  
**Helen Rawlings, *The Spanish Inquisition*** (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006). AC/Reserve BX1735.R39 2006  
***The Spanish Inquisition, 1478–1614: An Anthology of Sources***, ed. and trans. Lu Ann Homza. (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2006). AC/Reserve BX1735.S63 2006

**In addition to these books, the following articles and excerpts will be made available:**

**Kurt Rudolph, “Heresy: An Overview,” Thomas A. Robinson, “Heresy: Christian Concepts,” and Van A. Harvey, “Hermeneutics,”** in *Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd ed., ed. Lindsay Jones (Detroit, MI: Macmillan, 2005), vol. 6, pp. 3925–36. AC/Reference BL31.E46 2005 v.6 and online (access through library catalog).  
**William Monter, “The Inquisition in the Old World,” and Scott Sessions, “The Inquisition in the New World,”** in *Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd ed., vol. 7, pp. 4502–7. AC/Reference BL31.E46 2005 v.7 and online (access through library catalog).  
**John H. Arnold, “Inquisition, Texts, and Discourse,”** in *Texts and the Repression of Medieval Heresy*, ed. Caterina Bruschi and Peter Biller (Woodbridge, Suffolk, UK: York Medieval Press/Rochester, NY: Boydell & Brewer, 2003), 63–80. AC/Reserve BT1319.T49 2003.

- Caterina Bruschi**, “*Magna diligentia est habenda per inquisitorem*: Precautions before Reading Doat 21–26,” in *Texts and the Repression of Medieval Heresy*, ed. Bruschi and Biller, 81–110. AC/Reserve BT1319.T49 2003.
- Talal Asad**, “**Medieval Heresy: An Anthropological View**,” *Social History* 11, no. 3 (October 1986): 345–62. JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4285543>
- Jean-Claude Schmitt**, “**Religion, Folklore, and Society in the Medieval West**,” in *Debating the Middle Ages: Issues and Readings*, ed. Lester K. Little and Barbara H. Rosenwein (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1998), 376–87. AC/Reserve D117.D43 1998.
- Christine Caldwell Ames**, “**Does Inquisition Belong to Religious History?**” *American Historical Review* 110, no. 1 (2005): 11–37. <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/110.1/ames.html>
- R. I. Moore**, “**The Birth of Popular Heresy: A Millennial Phenomenon?**” *Journal of Religious History* 24 (February 2000): 8–25. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/119036590/issue>
- Richard Landes**, “**The Birth of Heresy: A Millennial Phenomenon**,” *Journal of Religious History* 24 (February 2000): 26–43. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/119036590/issue>
- Malcolm Lambert**, “**Heretical Preachers and the Rise of Catharism**,” “**The Cathars**,” “**Waldensians and the Deepening Crisis**,” and “**Spiritual Franciscans and Heretical Joachimites**,” in *Medieval Heresy: Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation*, 3rd ed. (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002), 52–69, 115–57, 70–96, 208–35, 323–49. AC/Reserve BT1319.L35 2002.
- “**Bernard Gui’s Description of Heresies**,” in *Heresies of the High Middle Ages: Selected Sources*, ed. and trans. Walter L. Wakefield and Austin P. Evans (New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), 373–445. AC ACLS eBooks (access through the library catalog entry).
- James B. Given**, “**Social Stress, Social Strain, and the Inquisitors of Medieval Languedoc**,” in *Christendom and Its Discontents: Exclusion, Persecution, and Rebellion, 1000–1500*, ed. Scott L. Waugh and Peter D. Diehl (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 67–85. Amherst/Reserve BR1609.5.C47 1996.
- Richard Kieckhefer**, “**The Office of Inquisition and Medieval Heresy: The Transition from Personal to Institutional Jurisdiction**,” *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 46 (January 1995): 36–61.
- Henry Ansgar Kelly**, “**Inquisitorial Due Process and the Status of secret Crimes**,” *Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law, San Diego, University of California at La Jolla, 21–27 August 1988*, ed. Stanley Chodorow (Vatican City: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 1992), 407–27.
- Petrus Iohannis Olivi**, “**Selections from the Apocalypse Commentary**,” trans. David Burr, adapted from his webpage: [http://www.history.vt.edu/Burr/heresy/beguins/olivi/Olivi\\_Apoc.html](http://www.history.vt.edu/Burr/heresy/beguins/olivi/Olivi_Apoc.html)
- Benzion Netanyahu**, “**The Primary Cause of the Spanish Inquisition**,” in *Toward the Inquisition: Essays on Jewish and Converso History in Late Medieval Spain* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1997), 183–200.
- Excerpts from “**The Trial of Juan Ramírez**,” in *Records of the Trials of the Spanish Inquisition in Ciudad Real*, ed. Haim Beinart (Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 1981), vol. 3, pp. 1–3, 30–33, 148–51, 158–63, 244–45, 270, 286–302. AC/Reserve KJD R4 v.3.
- “**Confessions from Bahia**,” excerpts translated from *Confissões da Bahia: Santo Ofício da Inquisição de Lisboa*, ed. Ronaldo Vainfas (São Paulo, Brazil: Companhia das Letras, 1997).
- Maureen Flynn**, “**Mimesis of the Last Judgment: The Spanish *Auto de fe***,” *Sixteenth Century Journal* 22, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 281–97. JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2542736>
- Mary E. Giles**, “**Francisca Hernández and the Sexuality of Religious Dissent**,” in *Women in the Inquisition: Spain and the New World*, ed. Mary E. Giles (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 75–97. AC/Reserve BX1735.W59 1998.
- Jacqueline Holler**, “**The Spiritual and Physical Ecstasies of a Sixteenth-Century *Beata*: Marina de San Miguel Confesses Before the Mexican Inquisition (Mexico, 1589)**,” in *Colonial Lives: Documents on Latin American History, 1550–1850*, ed. Richard Boyer and Geoffrey Spurling, 77–100 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000). AC/Reserve F1410.C725 2000.
- Dennis Tedlock**, “**Torture in the Archives: Mayans Meet Europeans**,” *American Anthropologist*, n.s., 95, no. 1 (March 1993): 139–52. JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/681183>
- Excerpt from **Diego de Landa**, *Relación de las cosas de Yucatán*, trans. Alfred M. Tozzer (Cambridge, MA: Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 1941), 67–85. AC/Reserve E51.H337.
- Inga Clendinnen**, “**A Sampler of Documents**,” in *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517–1570* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988), 193–207. AC/Reserve F1376.C55 1988.
- “**Four Cases of Idolatry**,” trans. from Eva Alexandra Uchmany de la Pena, “*Cuatro casos de idolatría en el área maya ante el Tribunal de la Inquisición*,” *Estudios de Cultura Maya* 6 (1967): 267–300.

- “The Witness Francisco Poma y Altas Caldeas of San Pedro de Acas, Cajatambo, Peru,”** in *Colonial Spanish America: A Documentary History*, ed. Kenneth Mills and William B. Taylor, 236–49 (Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, 1998). AC/Reserve F1412.C642 1998.
- Ronaldo Vainfas, “Santidade: An Indian Heresy,”** excerpts translated from *A heresia dos índios: catolicismo e rebeldia no Brasil colonial* (São Paulo, Brazil: Companhia das Letras, 1995).
- Alejandro Cañeque, “Theater of Power: Writing and Representing the Auto de Fe in Colonial Mexico,”** *The Americas* 52, no. 3 (January 1996): 321–43. JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1008004>
- Colin Palmer, “Religion and Magic,”** in *Slaves of the White God: Blacks in Mexico, 1570–1650* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1976), 145–66. AC/Reserve HT1053.P35.
- Kathryn Joy McKnight, “Blasphemy as Resistance: An African Slave Woman before the Mexican Inquisition,”** in *Women and the Inquisition*, ed. Giles, 229–53. AC/Reserve BX1735.W59 1998.
- Ruth Behar, “Sex and Sin, Witchcraft and the Devil in Late-Colonial Mexico,”** *American Ethnologist* 14, no. 1 (February 1987): 34–54. JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/645632>
- Martha Few, “On Her Deathbed, María de la Candelaria Accuses Michela de Molina of Casting Spells (Guatemala, 1696),”** in *Colonial Lives*, ed. Boyer and Spurling, 166–77. AC/Reserve F1410.C725 2000.
- Geoffrey Spurling, “Under Investigation for the Abominable Sin: Damián de Morales Stands Accused of Attempting to Seduce Antón de Tierra de Congo (Charcas, 1611),”** in *Colonial Lives*, ed. Boyer and Spurling, 112–16. AC/Reserve F1410.C725 2000.
- Gabriel Dellon, *History of the Inquisition, as It Is Exercised at Goa, Giving an Account of the Horrid Cruelties Which Are Exercised Therein, Written in French by the Ingenious Monsieur Dellon, Who Laboured Five Years under Those Severities, with an Account of His Deliverance*,** trans. Henry Wharton (London, 1688). Online (access through library catalog entry).
- International Theological Commission, *Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past*,** December 1999. Roman Curia, Vatican City. [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti\\_documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000307\\_memory-reconc-itc\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000307_memory-reconc-itc_en.html)

## Requirements:

Attendance is required. Unexcused absences will affect your class participation grade as well as your performance on exams. All assigned readings should be completed before the corresponding class period. Come prepared with insights, responses, and questions concerning the readings. Periodically, students will be assigned to prepare brief presentations on specific portions of the readings for the week to stimulate class discussion. If additional stimulation seems necessary, weekly response papers may be assigned.

### Written Assignments and Grading:

First Exam	20%	Take-home (4–5 pp.) due March 5.
Second Exam	20%	Take-home (4–5 pp.) due April 9.
Final Exam	30%	Take-home (8–10 pp.) due May 10.
Class Participation	30%	Attendance, discussion, presentations, and possible additional assignments.
Course Grade	100%	

Written assignments should be submitted electronically, in a Microsoft Word file, using 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and e-mailed as an attachment to [sessions@amherst.edu](mailto:sessions@amherst.edu) by 11:59 PM of the due date, unless an extension, requested at least 24 hours before the deadline, has been granted. Late submissions without an approved extension will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day late. Carefully proof your work before submission; don’t let typos or poor grammar compromise the effectiveness of your writing.

## **Class Schedule and Reading Assignments:**

- Jan. 26**      **Introductions and Orientations**
- Feb. 2**      **Heresy, Inquisition, and Hermeneutics**  
Randolph, "Heresy: An Overview."  
Robinson, "Heresy: Christian Concepts."  
Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, 1–9.  
Monter, "The Inquisition in the Old World."  
Sessions, "The Inquisition in the New World."  
Peters, *Inquisition*, 1–10.  
Harvey, "Hermeneutics."  
Arnold, "Inquisition, Texts, and Discourse."  
Caterina Bruschi, "Magna diligentia est habenda per inquisitorem."  
Asad, "Medieval Heresy: An Anthropological View."  
Schmitt, "Religion, Folklore, and Society in the Medieval West."  
Ames, "Does Inquisition Belong to Religious History?"
- Feb. 9**      **Old Heretics, a New Millennium, and the Rise of Popular Dissent**  
Peters, *Inquisition*, 11–39.  
Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, 13–101.  
Moore, "The Birth of Popular Heresy: A Millennial Phenomenon?"  
Landes, "The Birth of Heresy: A Millennial Phenomenon."
- Feb. 16**      **Cathars and Waldensians**  
Lambert, "Heretical Preachers and the Rise of Catharism."  
Lambert, "The Cathars."  
Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, 103–37.  
Lambert, "The Waldensians and the Deepening Crisis."  
Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, 139–63.
- Feb. 23**      **From *Caritas* to *Potestas* and the Rise of the Inquisitors**  
Peters, *Inquisition*, 40–74.  
Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, 165–215.  
"Bernard Gui's Description of Heresies," 373–404.  
Given, "Social Stress, Social Strain, and the Inquisitors."  
Kieckhefer, "The Office of Inquisition and Medieval Heresy."  
Kelly, "Inquisitional Due Process and the Status of Secret Crimes."
- Mar. 2**      **Spiritual Franciscans, Lollards, and Hussites**  
Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, 217–307.  
Lambert, "Spiritual Franciscans and Heretical Joachimites."  
"Bernard Gui's Description of Heresies," 404–45.  
Olivi, "Selections from the Apocalypse Commentary."

**FIRST EXAM DUE, FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

- Mar. 9**            **Menocchio and the Italian Inquisition**  
Peters, *Inquisition*, 105–21.  
Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*.
- Mar. 16**            **No Class—Spring Recess (Mar. 13–21)**
- Mar. 23**            **Iberian Tribunals of the Holy Office of the Inquisition of Heretical Depravity**  
Rawlings, *Spanish Inquisition*, 1–46.  
Peters, *Inquisition*, 75–104.  
Homza, *Spanish Inquisition: Anthology*, ix–xxxvii, 1–12, 61–79, 221–37.
- Mar. 30**            **“New Christians”**  
Rawlings, *Spanish Inquisition*, 47–89.  
Netanyahu, “The Primary Cause of the Spanish Inquisition.”  
Homza, *Spanish Inquisition: Anthology*, 13–60, 238–47, 257–66.  
“Trial of Juan Ramírez.”  
“Confessions from Bahia” excerpts.  
Flynn, “Mimesis of the Last Judgment.”
- Apr. 6**             **Illuminism, Protestantism, and Scandalous Propositions**  
Rawlings, *Spanish Inquisition*, 91–113.  
Giles, “Francisca Hernández and the Sexuality of Religious Dissent.”  
Homza, *Spanish Inquisition: Anthology*, 80–152, 176–220, 248–56.  
Holler, “Spiritual and Physical Ecstasies of a Sixteenth-Century *Beata*.”

**SECOND EXAM DUE, FRIDAY, APRIL 9**

- Apr. 13**            **Colonial Encounters**  
Tedlock, “Torture in the Archives.”  
Landa, *Relación* excerpt.  
Clendinnen, “A Sampler of Documents.”  
“Four Cases of Idolatry.”  
“The Witness Francisco Poma y Altas Caldeas.”  
Rainflas, “Santidade: An Indian Heresy.”  
Cañeque, “Theater of Power.”
- Apr. 20**            **Blasphemy, Witchcraft, and Moral Sins**  
Rawlings, *Spanish Inquisition*, 114–34.  
Homza, *Spanish Inquisition: Anthology*, 153–75.  
Palmer, “Religion and Magic.”  
McKnight, “Blasphemy as Resistance.”  
Behar, “Sex and Sin, Witchcraft and the Devil.”  
Few, “On Her Deathbed.”  
Spurling, “Under Investigation for the Abominable Sin.”  
“Confessions from Bahia” excerpts.

**Apr. 27**

**Inventions, Myth, and History**

Rawlings, Spanish Inquisition, 135–56.

Peters, *Inquisition*, 122–88.

Dellon, *History of the Inquisition, as It Is Exercised at Goa*.

**May 4**

**Inquisition and Heresy in Popular Culture and Discourse**

Peters, *Inquisition*, 189–315.

“Memory and Reconciliation” and related items.

**FINAL EXAM DUE, MONDAY, MAY 10**