

HIS 710 – Crime and Punishment in Medieval and Renaissance Europe

Prof. Jarbel Rodriguez

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Medieval and Renaissance archives are filled with long paper trails of criminal activity. As European states grew more powerful, centralized and bureaucratized so too did their ability to more closely control criminality, record the judicial process and dispense punishment. It was through this criminal process that many individuals who would normally never appear in a medieval record emerge onto the historical stage. Not surprisingly, historians have mined these criminal records to illuminate all aspects of Medieval and, later, Renaissance life as the criminal records reveal information that goes beyond crime and into aspects of social, religious, cultural, and gender history among others. The goal of this class is twofold. First, to introduce students to the history of Medieval and Renaissance crime, law, justice and punishment. Second, to highlight the use of criminal records as highly valuable historical sources that allow us a window into a past too often silent.

Required Books

Robert Bartlett, *The Hanged Man: A Story of Miracle, Memory and Colonialism in the Middle Ages* (Princeton, 2004)

Trevor Dean, *Crime in Medieval Europe* (New York, 2001)

Jean Dunbabin, *Captivity and Imprisonment in the Medieval Europe, 1000-1300* (New York, 2002)

James Given, *Inquisition and Medieval Society* (Ithaca, 1997)

Mitchell Merback, *The Thief, the Cross and the Wheel: Pain and the Spectacle of Punishment in Medieval and Renaissance Europe* (Chicago, 1999)

Anthony Musson, *Medieval Law in Context: The Growth of Legal Consciousness from Magna Carta to the Peasants' Revolt* (New York, 2001)

Mary Elizabeth Perry. *Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville* (Princeton, 1990)

Guido Ruggiero, *Binding Passions: Tales of Magic, Marriage and Power at the End of the Renaissance* (Oxford, 1993)

Additional Readings available on e-reserve (password: Dostoyevsky)

Grades

Class Participation: 10% (missing classes will affect this part of the grade. I expect every student to participate in every class)

Book Reviews: 2 X 15% each, 1000-1250 words. One book review will be based of the above secondary sources (due the day we discuss the book in class); the second book review will be based on a book directly related to your final paper (due Nov. 15th)

Lead a class discussion: 5%

Research or Historiography Paper Abstract: 5%

Final Research or Historiography Paper: 20-25 Pages 50% - Due Dec. 13th

Readings

All readings are to be done by the time of our weekly meetings.

Aug. 30: Introduction

Class Introduction

Sept. 6: Medieval Crime

Trevor Dean, *Crime in Medieval Europe* (New York, 2001)

Sept 13: Medieval Law

Anthony Musson, *Medieval Law in Context: The Growth of Legal Consciousness from Magna Carta to the Peasants' Revolt* (New York, 2001)

Sept 20: Canon Law

James Brundage, *Medieval Canon Law* (London, 1995)

Sept 27: Inquisition and the Law

James Given, *Inquisition and Medieval Society: Power, Discipline and Resistance in Languedoc* (Ithaca, 1997)

Oct. 4: Gender and Crime

Edith Benkov, "The Erased Lesbian: Sodomy and the Legal Tradition in Medieval Europe" in *Same Sex Love and Desire among Women in the Middle Ages* ed. F.C. Sautman and P. Sheingorn (New York, 2001) 101-122

Marc Boone, "State power and illicit sexuality: the persecution of sodomy in late medieval Bruges" in *Journal of Medieval History* 22 (1996) 135-153

Christopher Cannon, "The Rights of Medieval English Women: Crime and the Issue of Representation" in *Medieval Crime and Social Control* ed. Barbara Hanawalt and David Wallace (Minneapolis, 1999) 156-185

R. M. Karras and D. L. Boyd, "*Ut Cum Mulieres*: A Male Transvestite Prostitute in 14th Century London" in Louise Fradenburg and Carla Freccero, ed. *Premodern Sexualities* (New York, 1996) 101-116

Walter Prevenier, "Violence against Women in Fifteenth Century France and the Burgundian State" in *Medieval Crime and Social Control* ed. Barbara Hanawalt and David Wallace (Minneapolis, 1999) 186-203

Richard J. Sims, "Secondary Offenders? English Women and Crime, c. 1220 – 1348" in *Victims or Viragos?* ed. Christine Meek and Catherine Lawless (Dublin, 2005) 69-88

ABSTRACTS DUE

Oct. 11: No Class
Individual Meetings

Oct. 18: Punishment – Introduction

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (New York, 1997, repr. 1995) chs. 1-2

Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World* (New York, 1985) Introduction and ch. 1

Esther Cohen, "To Die a Criminal for the Public Good: The execution Ritual in Late Medieval Paris" in *Law, Custom and the Social Fabric in Late Medieval Europe: Essays in Honor of Bruce Lyon*, ed. Bernard Bachrach and David Nicholas (Kalamazoo, 1990) 285-304

Oct. 25: Corporal Punishment

Michael Merback, *The Thief, the Cross and the Wheel: Pain and the Spectacle of Punishment in Medieval and Renaissance Europe* (Chicago, 1998)

Nov. 1: Imprisonment

Jean Dunbabin, *Captivity and Imprisonment in the Medieval Europe, 1000-1300* (New York, 2002)

Nov. 8: History from Crime I

Robert Bartlett, *The Hanged Man: A Story of Miracle, Memory and Colonialism in the Middle Ages* (Princeton, 2004)

Nov. 15: History from Crime II

Guido Ruggiero, *Binding Passions: Tales of Magic, Marriage and Power at the End of the Renaissance* (Oxford, 1993)

BOOK REVIEWS DUE

Nov. 22: RECESS – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29: History from Crime III

Mary Elizabeth Perry. *Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville* (Princeton, 1990)

Dec 6: No Class

Finish Research Papers

Individual Meetings as needed

Dec. 13: Class Wrap-Up

Turn in Papers