

HIST 349: Reading Guide – Heresy and Errors

1. How much do sources like Burchard's *Corrector* and Bernard Gui's *Manual* reveal about medieval errors and heresy? Are they describing the situation on the ground or are their examples based on other things?
2. What advantages did the inquisitors have over those brought before them? How effective were they?
3. What kind of agency did people brought before the inquisition have? Were they at the total mercy of inquisitors or were they capable of affecting the process? If so, what kind of strategies could they use?
4. What kind of information were inquisitors after? What were they trying to reconstruct?
5. Based on the sources that we have read, did the inquisition force people to become self-conscious about heresy and error? Did it force them to change their daily habits? Did the inquisition teach as well as investigate and punish?
6. What kind of danger do the people brought before the inquisition represent to the Christian community? Why are these people targeted for inquisitorial attention?