Syllabus – HIST 640.01
Proseminar in European History – Intolerance and Persecution in Medieval Europe
Prof. Jarbel Rodriguez M: 16:10-18:55
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Classroom: HSS 151 Office Hours: MW 2-3 or by appt.

Course Goals
This class introduces students to the problem of medieval intolerance and persecution. The course will examine the development of institutionalized medieval persecution as well as intolerance against specific groups such as heretics, Jews, lepers, homosexuals, Muslims, prostitutes. Over the course of the semester, three questions will be central to our discussions:

1. Why does intolerance and persecution flare up in a specific place and time and against a specific group?
2. What is the relationship between intolerance, control and power?
3. How much agency do the persecuted retain? How do they use it and for what purposes?

Prerequisites
ENG 214, HIST 300 and Upper Division status. Undergraduates may not take this class unless they have completed these requirements.

Required Books
Mark Pegg, The Corruption of Angels (Princeton, 2001)
Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms (New York, 1987)
David Nirenberg, Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages (Princeton, 1998)

Additional readings may be accessed through the class website or through e-reserve. [Password: “heresy”]

Grades
Leading a Class Discussion: 5%
Book Review: 20%
Class Participation: 20%
Research Paper Abstract: 5%
Research Paper: 50%

Assignments
Lead a Class Discussion: Each student will be responsible for leading one of our weekly discussion sections. You will come to class prepared to lead the discussion and present questions that will stimulate debate.

Book Review: Select one of the books that we are discussing in class and write a 3-4 page critical review of the author’s work. The review is due the day we discuss the book in class.

Class Participation: Class participation makes up a full 20% of your grade—the equivalent of two letter grades. It is measured by your comments during our discussions—not so much quantity as quality. I expect everyone to show up having read the assignments and ready to speak up. If
you are fatally shy or believe that you cannot make useful comments, now is the time to get over it. Do not risk your grade by not speaking up.

**Research Paper:** Every student is required to submit a research paper of 18-20 pages for undergraduates and 22-25 pages for graduate students. The research paper will be on a topic of your own choosing that relies mostly on primary sources—in other words, do not go and read a couple of books on your topic and tell me what they say. Instead, put together a group of primary sources that address your particular topic, develop a thesis/argument and create a work of original scholarship. You are required to turn in an abstract (DUE MARCH 6th) that describes your paper topic along with a brief bibliography of sources and secondary material you are thinking about using. There is more information in the class website under “Research Paper.”

**Week 1 (Jan 30th) – Introduction**

**Week 2 (Feb 6th) – Framing Intolerance and Persecution**  
*Moore, The Formation of a Persecuting Society*

**Week 3 (Feb 13th) – Heresy and Inquisition**  
*Edward Peters, Inquisition* (New York, 1988) 40-74  
Brenda Bolton, “Tradition and Temerity: Papal Attitudes to Deviants, 1159-1216” in *Studies in Church History* 9 (1972) 79-91  
Bernard Gui, “Inquisitorial Technique” in *Internet Medieval Sourcebook*  
[http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/heresy2.html ]  
“The Inquisition Record of Jacques Fournier” in *Internet Medieval Sourcebook*  
[http://www2.sjsu.edu/depts/english/Fournier/ffournhm.htm ]

**Week 4 (Feb 20th) – The Heresy of the Cathars**  
*Pegg, Corruption of Angels*

**Week 5 (Feb 27th) – Jews and Christendom (Introduction)**  

Week 6 (Mar 6th) – Jews and Christendom (Study of Sources)

ABSTRACTS DUE

Week 7 (Mar 13th) – No Class
Individual Meetings with Instructor to Discuss Papers

Week 8 (Mar 20th) – Minorities in Christendom – The Case of Spain (I)
Roger Highfield, “Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Same Society: The Fall of Convivencia in Medieval Spain” in Studies in Church History 15 (1978) 121-146
Olivia Remie Constable, Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim and Jewish Sources (Philadelphia, 1997) 269-275; 280-285; 352-370

Week 9 (Mar 27th) – Minorities in Christendom – The Case of Spain (II)
Nirenberg, Communities of Violence

Week 10 (Apr 3rd) – Intolerance towards Schoolwork
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 11 (Apr 10th) – Intolerance and Homosexuality
John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality* (Chicago, 1980) 3-40
Gregory Hutcheson, “The Sodomitic Moor: Queerness in the Narrative of Reconquista” in *Queering the Middle Ages* ed. Glen Burger and Steven Kruger (Minneapolis, 2001) 99-122
“Two versions of the Adelphopoia Rite” in *Internet Medieval Sourcebook* [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/2rites.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/2rites.html) (Read only the Boswell version)

Week 12 (Apr 17th) – Prostitutes
Karras, *Common Women: Prostitution and Sexuality in Medieval England*

Week 13 (Apr 24th) – No Class
Individual Meetings with Instructor to Discuss Papers

Week 14 (May 1st) – Inquisition in the Early Modern Period
Ginzburg, *Cheese and the Worms*

Week 15 (May 8th) – NO CLASS
FINISH RESEARCH PAPERS

Week 16 (May 15th) – Class Wrap-up
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE