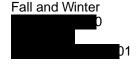
Last updated: July 23, 2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16

Philosophy 2006: Metaphysics & Epistemology of Witchcraft

Albrecht DŸrerÕs depiction of a witch, c1500age Credit: The British Museum



DESCRIPTION

European witches were terrifying. Many of them ate babies, had sex with devils, destroyed crops and all, murdered human souls. At least that is what their contemporaries believed. These are just some apparent reasons why tens of thousands of them were tried and executed, in many cases after being between the years 1400 and 1750.

This course aims to understand the intellecutal dimensions of this disturbing but fascinating period pejoratively as the ÒWitch CrazeÓ. To do this, we will try to get inside the minds of persecutors, judge accusers of the Western witch by looking at medieval, renaissance and early modern literature on mag witchcraft and the devil. A second aim will be to assess this event and the underlying worldview that h shape it philosophically.

Sample philosophical topics include: faith and reason, skepticism and toleration, miracles and test the problem of evil, the ethics of killinthe mind-body problem, free will, justice, feminist critiques of the witch hunts, sexual ethics, and the philosophy of death.

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TEXTS

- ¥ Levack, B. (ed) The Witchcraft SourcebookRoutledge. 2003E-book freely accessible through the UWO library site.
- ¥ Nash, D. Witches and Witchcraft Shire Publications. 2014. ISBN 10: 074781294i8dle edition: CAD \$ 6.36.
- ¥ Plantinga, A. Knowledge and Christian Belie 2015. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. ISBN-10: 0802872042. Kindle edition: CAD\$ 9.99.
- ¥ Sandel, M. <u>Justice: What's the Right Thing to D</u>2010. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. ISBN-10: 0374532508Kindle edition: CAD\$ 5.99.
- ¥ van Inwagen, P. Metaphysics. Fourth Edition. 2014. Westview Press. ISBN-10: 0813349346. Kindle edition: CAD\$ 21.49.

N.B. ISBN numbers above correspond to paperback editions, which will be made available for purchas through the UWO bookstore. Kindle edition prices are quoted from amazon.ca, solely for comparative purposes, and may change at any time.

REQUIREMENTS

¥ Attendance/participation

¥ Short assignments

¥ Midyear test

¥ Exam

15%

25e% iled instructions will be provided)

20[°]%

40 %

OBJECTIVES

See above description.