

HI179-30 Deviance and Nonconformity in Pre-Modern Europe

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Naomi Pullin

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Societies are identified, at least in part, by whom they choose to marginalise. This first-year 30 CAT undergraduate module offers students an introduction to early modern history and the opportunity to explore why and how some individuals and groups were marginalised and persecuted because of differences in their beliefs, gender, ethnicity and behaviour. The early modern period was a time of great social, economic, and religious uncertainty. Conflicts and social tensions created by developments in Europe led to the emergence of new types of deviant and radical groups and new measures to control their behaviour.

The module will be structured around a series of case studies, including those outcast for religious reasons like Jews, Muslims, Catholic and Protestants, nonconformists, and atheists; supernatural deviants like witches, werewolves, and demons; social and political outsiders, including those of divergent gender or sexual identities, vagabonds, monsters, and people with physical and mental disabilities; and those discriminated against for reasons of race and ethnicity.

Though this module focuses on early modern Europe, the groups we discuss will be set firmly within the context of wider global developments and economic transformations. Students will also be encouraged to reflect on their own ideas about deviant behaviour.

Module aims

This module offers students an introduction to early modern history and the opportunity to explore why and how some individuals and groups were marginalised and persecuted because of differences in their beliefs, gender, ethnicity and behaviour. The module will be structured around a series of case studies in order to test established hypotheses about exclusion, prejudice, and scapegoating.

During this course, students will be required to analyse secondary debates and relevant primary material, including images, printed pamphlets, trial records and literary texts available on Early English Books Online, the Old Bailey Online and other relevant online databases. The assessment for this module will encourage students to assess the deviant groups we have study in a comparative framework.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Theme 1: Introductions

1. Writing a History of Deviance
2. Persecuting Societies
3. Heresy in Pre-Modern Europe

Theme 2: Non-European deviants

4. Jews and Hebraic Culture
5. Muslims In and Beyond Europe
6. Black Europeans and Imperial Encounters

Theme 3: Religious and Supernatural Deviants

7. Protestants, Catholics and the 'Radical Reformations'
8. Astrologers, prophets and mystics
9. Witches and Witch-Hunting
10. Werewolves and the Possessed
11. Unbelievers and Atheists

Theme 4: Social and Medical Deviants

12. Gender, Sex and Prostitution
13. Sodomy, Cross-Dressing and Sexual Deviance
14. Monsters and hermaphrodites
15. Leprosy, Early Modern Epidemics and 'The Diseased'
16. Mental Illness, Suicidality and Disabled Persons
17. The Poor, Homeless and Arsonists
18. Criminals, Bandits and Pirates
19. Migrants, Travellers and Exiles

1. Conclusions

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the different conditions affecting the treatment and marginalisation of deviant groups in early modern Europe.
- Develop a basic knowledge of the political, social and religious contexts of early modern Europe affecting the treatment of minority and marginal groups.
- Communicate ideas and findings through oral and written discussion, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of a broad range of primary source material, showing an appreciation of the possibilities and limitations of analysing primary sources relating to marginal groups in early modern society.
- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing scholarship, drawing upon scholarship from comparative history, anthropology and sociology.
- Act with limited supervision and direction to explore topics and themes of interest within defined guidelines in order to develop individual research skills, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

- A greater understanding of how historians are able to utilise debates from other disciplines (like sociology, anthropology and political thought) in their work.
- The ability to carry out independent research and to develop areas of interest.
- To develop critical thinking and analytical skills when reading primary sources.
- To understand how early modern society, politics and culture differs from (and has similarities to) modern societies.
- To develop comparative skills, since students will be encouraged to not only compare different deviant groups but also to consider their treatment in different parts of Europe (or the wider world) and in different spaces, times and contexts.

Transferable skills

- To develop research and analytical skills, and work as independent researchers with limited supervision.
 - To think critically about their readings and topics and sources we cover.
 - To make use of databases and other research platforms to pursue their research.
 - To develop oral, written and presentation skills through the different forms of verbal and written assessment.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	1 session of 1 hour (0%)
Project supervision	(0%)
Other activity	1 hour 30 minutes (0%)
Private study	256 hours (85%)
Assessment	1 hour 30 minutes (0%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Other activity description

A concluding seminar and workshop aimed at encouraging students to put together a timeline of this period, and to focus on essay-writing skills in preparation for the long-essay

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A4

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
1000-word skills exercise	10%	1 hour 30 minutes	Yes (extension)
This skills exercise provides students with an introduction to locating and accessing and identifying early modern primary sources and writing a short reflective piece about what they have uncovered.			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Participation and Engagement	10%		No
Seminar participation/engagement- a mark based on tutor assessment on the basis of engagement in classes throughout the module.			

Reassessment component

1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
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Assessment component

2000 word essay or equivalent	30%		Yes (extension)
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Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

3000-word essay or equivalent	50%		Yes (extension)
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Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

- written feedback on essays\r\n- student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one tutorials\r\n- written feedback and reports on presentations\r\n- informal interim feedback on progress in

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 1 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 1 of UHIA-Q302 Undergraduate History (Part-Time)
- Year 1 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 1 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy