

THE SPANISH INQUISITION

HIS350L, EUS346, JS364, RS357

Prof. Miriam Bodian

Fall, 2012

T-TH 3:30-5 pm, GAR 2.128

The Spanish Inquisition operated for three and a half centuries, and became one of the most notorious institutions in history. It is popularly known for its secret trials, its autos-da-fe and burnings at the stake, and its fanatical inquisitors. We will want to explore how well the stereotype fits the reality. But we will ask other questions as well. Why was it established? Why did it survive even when heresy seemed virtually eliminated? What purposes did it serve that allowed it to survive for so long?

Each student will carry out a project “tracing” one (fictitious) personality through the various phases of the inquisitorial process, from the time of arrest (or re-arrest) to the day of the sentencing. By discussing one another’s projects we will get a sense of the great diversity - in time and space, and in motives and aims - of this institution.

Books to purchase:

Henry Kamen, *The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision*

Lu Ann Homza, *The Spanish Inquisition, 1478-1614*

Lectures and Readings:

1) Aug. 30 – Introduction. What is heresy? Why was it believed to be a crime?

2) Sept. 4 - The early Church and heresy.

Homza, pp. ix-xi.

Edward Peters on the Arian heresy (Blackboard)

The Nicene Creed (Blackboard)

3) Sept. 6 – The medieval inquisition.

Edward Peters, *Inquisition*, pp. 40-67 (Blackboard)

Aquinas on punishment of heretics (Blackboard)

4-5) Sept. 11, 13 - The Spanish Inquisition – Why was it established? How was it different from the medieval inquisition?

Homza, pp. 1-8.

Kamen, *Spanish Inquisition*, Chs. 1-2.

SEPT. 18 – NO CLASS – Discussion board exercise.

6) Sept. 20 – An Early Case (Marina González, 1494)

Homza, pp. 27-49.

7-10) Sept. 25, 27, Oct 4, 9 [**for Oct. 2 see below**] – Operation and procedures of the Inquisition. (I) Edicts of Faith, Arrest and Sequestration of Property; (II) The Trial; (III) Torture; (IV) Punishments

Kamen, *Spanish Inquisition*, Chs. 7-9.

Homza, pp. 221-231, 257-266.

11) Oct. 2 – A notorious trial of a “judaizer”

Film: “O Judeu.”

12) Oct. 11 – “Purity of Blood” and the Inquisition: A form of pre-modern racism?

Kamen, *Spanish Inquisition*, Ch. 11.

13) Oct. 16 – Opposition to the Inquisition

Kamen, *Spanish Inquisition*, Chs. 3-4.

14) Oct. 18 – Crypto-Jews and crypto-Muslims: a comparison

15) Oct. 23 – Polemicizing with inquisitors

Miriam Bodian, *Dying in the Law of Moses*, Ch. 5 (Blackboard).

16) Oct. 25 – MID-TERM EXAM

17) Oct. 30 - New targets: alumbrados and “luteranos” (Protestants)

Kamen, *Spanish Inquisition*, Ch. 5.

Homza, pp. 80-92; 153-163.

18) Nov. 1 – New targets: witches.

Kamen, Ch. 10.

Kamen and Dyer, eds., *Inquisitorial Inquiries*, pp. 119-143. (Blackboard).

19-20) Nov. 6, 8 – Counter-Reformation Social Control

Kamen, *Spanish Inquisition*, Ch. 6, 12.

Sara Nalle, *Crazy for God*, Ch. 1 (Blackboard).

Homza, pp. 216-220.

21) Nov. 13 – Discussion and peer critiquing of projects.

22) Nov. 15 – Discussion and peer critiquing of projects.

23) Nov. 20 - The Enlightenment Critique of the Inquisition

Source: From Voltaire, *Candide*, Ch. 4 (link on Blackboard).

NOV. 22 – THANKSGIVING VACATION

24) Nov. 27 - Decline and of the Inquisition

Edward Peters, *Inquisition*, pp. 99-104 (Blackboard).

25) Nov. 29 – Abolition of the Inquisition

26) Dec. 4 – Presentation of student projects

27) Dec. 6 – Review for final exam

REQUIREMENTS

The grade components are as follows: class participation (10% of grade), midterm exam (20% of grade), final exam (20% of grade), and research/writing project resulting in a paper of about 20 pages (50% of grade).

The research project will involve the following. Each student will choose, from a list of fictitious victims of the Inquisition, one “victim,” whose name, date of birth, place of residence, year of arrest, sentence, and date of sentencing will be provided. It will be the student’s task to create a history of this person’s involvement with the Inquisition, on the basis of material learned in class as well as outside reading. A number of books will be placed on reserve in the library for use in this project. You may use your historical imagination, but the unfolding events must be plausible and consistent in light of what we’ve studied.

Professor Miriam Bodian

GAR 2:104a

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Office hours: Tues. 11:30-1:00, Th. 1:00-2:30

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Academic honesty is expected in every aspect of the course. All exams and written assignments must be entirely your own work. Absence from class will be permitted only in cases of serious health issues or observance of religious holidays.