

COURSE DETAIL

WITCHES AND WITCH HUNTS: FROM SALEM TO WASHINGTON

Country

France

Host Institution

University of Bordeaux

Program(s)

University of Bordeaux

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History

UCEAP Course Number

115

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

WITCHES AND WITCH HUNTS: FROM SALEM TO WASHINGTON

UCEAP Transcript Title

WITCHES&WITCH HUNTS

UCEAP Quarter Units

3.50

UCEAP Semester Units

2.30

Course Description

Through the study of the trial transcripts and related documents of the investigation, as well as all kinds of resources on the events of 1691-93, this course examines the Puritans' worldview and the socio-political background that shaped their reactions to the events leading up to the trials, introduces the dynamics of this very unique succession of events from beginning to end, and assesses the historiography of the Salem witch trials. It covers the ways religious, diplomatic, political, cultural, social and economic factors combined in such a unique way to create the crisis precipitating the Salem witch trials. They offer a detailed survey of religion, spirituality, superstition, magic, the supernatural, public rituals, as understood by 17th century New Englanders and which explain this extraordinary "witchcraft craze" they indulged in. Once the context is laid out, the course moves to a detailed examination of the witch trials at Salem themselves. The economic and demographic patterns apparent during 1692 and 1693 are examined, as well as the relationships between witchcraft accusations, gender, and inheritance practices. The relationship between these witchcraft trials and the traumas faced by New Englanders at the hands of the Natives during King Philip's and King William's wars are also alluded to.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.sciencespobordeaux.fr/en/international-students-and-programs/englis...>

Host Institution Campus

Sciences Po Bordeaux

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Master

Host Institution Department**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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