

## **Thought Essay on Medieval Superstition**

### **Deadline and Submission Process**

**A partial draft of this essay (the first one or two pages) should be completed by Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please bring your essay to class because we will be reviewing them in small groups. The final essay should be submitted on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior consent is granted.**

### **Sources for Your Paper**

For this assignment, please use the text *Fearful Spirits, Reasoned Follies* by Michael D. Bailey. Specifically, focus on the Prologue, Introduction, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, and Chapter 5; you are not required to use the other chapters. Remember to cite all sources properly.

### **Paper Content**

Please respond to this deceptively straightforward prompt:

Why were Western European Christian leaders worried about popular superstitions, how did they define and describe them, and how did they react and respond to them? Use at least two detailed, specific examples from the book to discuss and evaluate each of these points.

### **Preparing and Formatting of Your Essay**

- Your essay should be three to four pages long.
- You should argue a position in your essay, i.e., use a thesis statement.
- Use 11 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double-spacing, and page numbering.
- Use a topic sentence to start each paragraph, so that the reader knows what you intend on arguing within it.
- Use a proper introduction, body (several paragraphs), and a brief conclusion in your paper. Indent the start of each paragraph.
- You should use and/or quote specific examples from the reading to support your thoughts. Use *The Chicago Manual of Style* to footnote your sources. See Dr. Martinez's [Writing Resources for Students](http://bit.ly/16tj9SV) at <http://bit.ly/16tj9SV>. Please use a Works Cited/Bibliography page, especially if you are referencing other material not being used in this class.
- Please staple your paper together and attach a copy of the grading rubric to the back of your paper.

HIST 1020: Medieval Europe  
Grading Rubric for a Thought Essay on

*Fearful Spirits, Reasoned Follies Paper*

Minimum Requirements (All aspects must be fulfilled to receive a grade of “B minus” or better):

Requirements	Yes	No
1. Is this rubric stapled/attached to their paper?		
2. Does the paper utilize a proper introduction, body, and conclusion?		
3. Does this paper present a topic sentence that argues their position?		
4. Does the paper reference the book at least twice to prove their position?		
5. Does the paper use footnotes properly?		
6. Is the paper at least three pages in length?		
7. Is there a works cited/bibliography included?		

Stylistic Considerations (To earn an “A” or “B,” all considerations must be rated “Very Good” or better):

Issues	Needs Work	Displays Basic Competence	Better Than Average	Very Good	Excellent
1. No grammatical errors, writing mistakes, awkward phrases, run-on sentences, or fragments.					
2. No spelling mistakes or uses of a word incorrectly.					
3. No slang or overly “conversational” text.					
4. Definitely uses topic sentences to start each paragraph.					
5. Definitely uses examples and cites where those examples appear in the text correctly. Definitely quotes some text and paraphrases other portions of the text.					
6. Definitely completes all aspects of the assignment.					

Argument/Content Considerations (To earn an “A” or “B,” all considerations must be rated “Very Good” or better):

Does this paper...?	Needs Work	Displays Basic Competence	Better Than Average	Very Good	Excellent
1. Make compelling points in reference to the prompt?					
2. Use evidence effectively to prove their position?					

**Three Overall Comments on Your Paper:**

**Letter Grade:**