

CP7017 *Hail Satan! The Devil in Literature and Culture*

Module type Optional

Term / hours Hilary / 22

ECTS 10

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Module description

Satan Satan has been a patient fellow traveller through western world history, filling the gaps of cultural conceptions and understandings available at the time with a simultaneously appealing and appalling narrative – a figure through which concepts of Evil (incarnate) and Otherness in general that fuelled the thinking of a particular period can be revealed and analysed. The module begins with lectures introducing students to the cultural history of the Devil, related religious and philosophical concepts such as (ultimate) Evil, plus critical concepts from cultural teratology and gender studies that will be used as a tool set for literary and cultural analysis. Then, the module moves to in-class readings/viewings, presentations and discussions. The topic allows students to encounter some of the most prominent texts and films from the western canon featuring the Devil, from Saint Augustin to the unholy Hollywood cinema of the Millennium. Cultural repercussions and appropriations will be also discussed. In the final week, students present their individual research projects, which then lead to their term paper.

Assessment

The module is assessed through a 4,500-word essay.

Indicative bibliography

Primary sources (texts):

Saint Augustine (excerpts).

Caesarius of Heisterbach, *Dialogus miraculorum* (excerpts).

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* (excerpts).

J. Milton, *Paradise Lost*.

J. W. Goethe, *Faust*, 1.

J. Cazotte, *The Devil in Love*.

M. Bulgakov, *Master & Margarita*.

A. Rice, *Memnoch the Devil*.

Primary sources (films):

Omen

Angel Heart

Devil's Advocate

Bedazzled

General secondary sources:

H. A. Kelly, Satan: A Biography.

Ph. Almond, The Devil: A New Biography.

V. Flusser, The History of the Devil.

R. Arp, The Devil and Philosophy.

(Full bibliographical details on the above works will be provided in class.)

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Identify and explain literary, historical or philosophical aspects of the devil / the diabolic within the western cultural canon and its appeal to audiences.
- LO2 Critically analyse narratives of the Devil as 'ultimate' Evil in literature, film and popular culture and situate them within the broader context of literary, intellectual and cultural history.
- LO3 Conduct personal research on related topics, literary authors or film directors, and their works.
- LO4 Formulate the individual findings in a research paper in essay format.