

SATAN

History, Poetics, and Politics of the Archenemy



Tu–Th 10:15–11:45 | COHN 402

This course explores the oldest and the most powerful antagonist of human history. Satan, the Devil, referred with many other names in different religious traditions, has a rich history from ancient dualist cosmologies, through the monotheistic traditions, up to the modern day. In this course, we will survey the many expressions of human creativity that underlie the emergence and development of this character. We will study mythology, scripture, philosophy, medicine, material culture, ritual practice, and iconographic representations to discover the various dimensions of the archenemy over the course of two millennia. Through an extensive study of the representations of Satan past and present, we will see the ways in which different communities and individuals answered questions such as: What is a human? How do we relate to the cosmos? How do we make meaning of suffering? How to define power and authority? What is morality?



Why should you take this course? There are myriad reasons to take any course. Let me offer two reasons to take this course. Firstly, it matters. We live in a world shaped by the religions that place human existence at the center of a cosmic spiritual battle between good and evil. This spiritual battle finds echoes in political speech, moral teachings, economy, science, pop culture, and other realms of life. Understanding the development of the main character of this battle makes a big impact in one's participation in the world. Secondly, everyone likes a good challenge. Accepting simplistic narratives, totalistic views of history, one-sided privileged perspectives are easy. By taking this course, you will challenge yourself to approach a controversial topic from different perspectives, with the help of various literary and material sources. Being a critical consumer of historical narratives is important, and this course will help you become one.



**No
electronics
in the
classroom**

**Kristina Donnally
and Sam Herrmann**
are our TAs.
Introduce yourself to
them. If you miss a
class or need any
help with the course,
they can help you.

This course is not for everyone. The material in this course is disturbing.

We will discuss literature and imagery that is racist, sexist, misogynistic, ableist, antisemitic, islamophobic, homophobic, sexually explicit, and violent.

This is inevitable given... well... the theme of the course.

If you think you will be uncomfortable with this material, speak to Prof. Durmaz before enrolling in the course!

Assessment

Attendance and participation	15pts
Quiz on the syllabus (online on Canvas, by Jan 30)	5pts
In-class quiz 1 on February 6	15pts
In-class quiz 2 on February 27	15pts
In-class quiz 3 on March 27	15pts
In-class quiz 4 on April 17	15pts
10 Questions (upload on Canvas by April 15)	10pts
Annotation	15pts
Museum Visit Report	10pts

**adjust your canvas settings to
receive emails about updates and
announcements**

Grade Scale

98-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+
94-97: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D
90-93: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	60-62: D-

**NOTE THE QUIZ DATES!
YOU WILL TAKE 3 OF THE 4 QUIZZES**

Statement on Inclusion and Diversity in the Classroom

University of Pennsylvania considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. Accordingly, all participants in this course are expected to contribute proactively and constructively toward creating an inclusive and respectful climate for everyone involved, both inside and outside of the classroom space. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. As part of our shared academic endeavor as a community of scholars, it is essential that we honor the intersection of these experiences and characteristics as a core value. In this context, please note that Title IX specifically prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, violence, harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at <https://www.diversity.upenn.edu>. In this context, this course is also firmly committed to supporting the work of the Office of Student Disabilities Services, which aims to “ensure equal access to all University programs activities and services.” For more information and resources, see <https://www.vpul.upenn.edu>. If you need to request academic accommodations, feel free to speak with me after class, during office hours, or via email. For all participants in this course, the cultivation of the classroom as a healthy, equitable, and inclusive workspace is a first priority.

Statement on Academic Honesty and Integrity

The concept of honesty need not be explained, neither does this topic require a “statement” but here it goes: Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity in this course. The Pennbook contains our Code of Academic Integrity. These standards include the responsible use and citation of sources. In other words, whenever you use somebody else’s idea or writing orally or in writing, you should explicitly give them full credit. Likewise, individual assignments should fully reflect your personal work and ideas. For more information, see: <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>



There is more information on canvas. Canvas is your best friend in this course.
Check the Announcements, Files, and Assignments.

Weekly Schedule and Readings

Week 1 Thursday January 16: Introduction

No readings.



Be in the classroom at 10:15 sharp! Latecomers are distracting.

Week 2 Tuesday January 21: Mythology, cosmic battles, and authority

Hesiod, Theogony, "The Birth of Zeus"

Lincoln, "Constructing Authority," 1-13.

Thursday January 23: Satan in the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 3; Genesis 6:1-8; Numbers 22:22-35; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Job

Forsyth, "The Satan of the Old Testament," 107-23.

Almond, "The Devil is Born," 1-3



The readings are linked to external sources or uploaded on Canvas under "Files".

Week 3 Tuesday January 28: Demonology in Ancient Judaism

Book of Enoch 6-10; Book of Jubilees 10

Reed, Demons, Angels, and Writing in Ancient Judaism, "Introduction," 1-40.

Thursday January 30: Satan in the New Testament

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 3:1-34; Luke 22:1-6

Kotsko, The Prince of This World, 47-76.



Thursday Jan. 30 is the last day to take the "syllabus quiz" on Canvas. This is an online quiz testing your knowledge of the syllabus of this course. You can take it as many times as you want until 6pm on Jan. 30!

Week 4 **Tuesday February 4: Apocalypse**

Revelation of John

Forsyth, "Apocalypse and Christian Combat," 248-57.

 **Thursday February 6: QUIZ 1 (Check on Canvas if this quiz is assigned to you!)**

In class. 30 multiple-choice questions. Bring a pen.

Week 5 **Tuesday February 11: Satan in Early Islam**

Qur'an 7:11-27; 14:21-22; 20:115-123; 17:61-65

Gardet and Wensinck, "Iblis," Encyclopedia of Islam (2nd ed.)

Thursday February 13: Satan in Medieval Islam

Ahmed, Satanic Verses, 11-40.

Week 6 **Tuesday February 18: Dialogue and Deal with the Devil**

Brock, "St. Marina and Satan," 35-57.

Lazar, "Theophilus: Servant of Two Masters," 31-50.

Thursday February 20: Dante

Divine Comedy, Inferno, Canto 34.

Week 7 **Tuesday February 25: Satan and ethnicity**

Kreyenbroek, "Yazidi," Encyclopedia of Islam (2nd ed.)

 **Thursday February 27: QUIZ 2 (Check if this quiz is assigned to you!)**

Week 8 Tuesday March 4: The Frozen, Brooding, Fallen Satan

Almond, "The Death of the Devil," 196-219.

Daniel Defoe, The History of the Devil.

Thursday March 6: The Witch

Almond, "The Devil and the Witch," 118-140.

March 8-16 Spring Break

Week 9 Tuesday March 18: Thinking about Gender with Satan

Behar, "Sexual witchcraft, colonialism, and women's powers," 218-46.

Thursday March 20: Satan and Nature

Remien, "Satan's Pause," 817-36.

Milton, Paradise Lost.

Week 10 Tuesday March 25: Satan in America

Poole, "Darkness Invisible: The Devil and American Revivalism," 32-64.

Duane, "Children in the Hands of Satan," 19-57.



Thursday March 27: QUIZ 3 (Check if this quiz is assigned to you!)

Week 11 Tuesday April 1: Satan and Money

Taussig, "The Devil and the Cosmogogenesis of Capitalism."

Thursday April 3: TBD

Week 12 Tuesday April 8: Apocalypse now

Poole, "The Beast: Satan and the Theology of American Empire," 185-212.

Bond, "Modern Resurrection of the Antichrist."

Thursday April 10: Satanic Panic

Poole, "Satanic Panics and Culture Wars," 155-184.

Goodwin, "Satan Sellers," 22-40.

Week 13 Tuesday April 15: Satanism and Religious Pluralism

Laycock, *Speak of the Devil* (selected chapters).

Have you sent a total of 10 quiz questions? April 15 is the deadline!



Thursday April 17: QUIZ 4 (Check if this quiz is assigned to you!)

Week 14 Tuesday April 22: Satan in Hollywood

Recommended: MonsterTalk podcast, "The Exorcist Effect."

Thursday April 24: Visit to the Penn Museum (attendance optional)

Week 15 Tuesday April 29: Satan in Pop Culture and Concluding Remarks

No final exam. Submit your Museum Visit Reports by May 10.