Dr. Matelski

HST 201: Contemporary Approaches to History

What Makes a Witch? Preliminary Paper

*Content:* Using the University of Virginia’s Salem Witchcraft website (<http://salem.lib.virginia.edu/home.html>), pick one of the accused witches tried in 1692/3 by the special Court of Oyer and Terminer, found at the bottom of this document.

Ask and answer the following questions in a brief (2-3 pages) paper:

1. Why did people think this person was a witch?
2. How did he or she respond to the accusations?

Your opening paragraph should briefly **(3 or 4 sentences max)** introduce the Salem Witch Trials. Biographical details concerning the accused witch are only worth relating if, in your view, they pertain to your thesis. Your opening paragraph should conclude with your thesis statement. Your **thesis statement** is an argument that you will support throughout the essay with appropriate evidence.

*The goal of this assignment is twofold:*

1. To get you thinking about characteristics of these so-called “witches”
2. To give you hands-on experience working with 17th century documents.

Therefore, DO NOT use outside sources to address the above questions.

**Your analysis should utilize the original trial transcripts**. Limit biographical details to the introduction, not the body paragraphs. Essays that rely on biographical information found elsewhere on the U-VA website will not earn as many points as those based on primary sources.

*Length and Format:* The argument for your thesis **must be** supported by evidence and citations from the trial transcripts and referenced by case number. After referencing or quoting directly from the text, insert the title of the document and the case number from which you are citing in parenthesis. Note: this is an abridged version of MLA citation practices.

Example: (“Examination of Mary Easty,” SWP No. 45.3).

Papers should be **2-3 pages**, typed and double-spaced.

Some tips on formatting your paper:

* Use 12-point font in one of the standard typefaces (Times New Roman, Times).
* Do not place extra spaces between paragraphs or between the heading and the title or the title and the text
* Your title should be centered, in plain 12-point text, with appropriate words capitalized – no title page is necessary
* All pages should be paginated
* All margins should be one inch (the default margins for most word processing programs)
* Quotations must be enclosed in quotations marks, and MLA citation practices should be observed
* Do not use contractions, jargon, or the first person
* Check spelling and proofread

Refer to the syllabus for information regarding late work and academic dishonesty.

*Cases Heard by the Court of Oyer and Terminer in 1692*

1. Sarah Good
2. Elizabeth Proctor
3. Martha Corey
4. Rebecca Nurse
5. John Proctor
6. Giles Corey
7. Abigail Hobbs
8. Sarah Wilds
9. Mary Easty
10. George Burroughs
11. George Jacobs, Sr.
12. John Willard
13. Sarah Buckley
14. Mary Witheridge
15. Dorcas Hoar
16. Susannah Martin
17. Rebecca Jacobs
18. Mary Bradbury
19. Alice Parker
20. Ann Pudeator
21. Martha Carrier
22. Elizabeth Howe
23. Wilmot Reed
24. Ann Foster
25. Mary Lacey Sr.
26. Margaret Scott
27. Abigail Faulkner Sr.
28. Rebecca Eames
29. Samuel Wardwell
30. Mary Parker

\* Note: Tituba and Sarah Osborne are *not* on this list as they were not tried at Oyer and Terminer. Bridget Bishop is also not available as her transcripts will have already been transcribed earlier in the semester.