**Elite and Popular Cultures**

| DISCUSSION TOPICS | DOCUMENTS | AUDIO | READING |

**DISCUSSION TOPICS AND ESSAY QUESTIONS**

**a) Popular and Elite Cultures**
- Why have historians struggled to define 'popular culture'?  
- Is the distinction between 'elite' and 'popular' meaningful?

**b) Witchcraft**
- Were the European witch hunts primarily a war against women?  
- Why did the legal pursuit of witches make less sense in 1720 than in 1500?

**c) Print**
- Did the spread of printing draw elite and popular culture closer together, or drive them further apart?  
- Was there a print 'revolution'?  

**DOCUMENTS**

**TEXTS**

**POPULAR AND ELITE CULTURE**
- J. Deacon, 'Dicks loyalty to his true love Nancy: or, A famous wedding' (c.1671 and 1704)  
- English Broadside ballad archive

**WITCHCRAFT**
- Jean Bodin, *De la demonomanie des sorciers* (1580) excerpts  
- George Gifford, *A Dialogue concerning witches and witchcraftes* (1593) excerpts  
- Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger, *Malleus Maleficarum* (1486)  
- Witch Persecutions at Bamberg

**PRINT**
- *Dance of Death*, early example of printing (c.1500)  
- Printed page from 1498
- *A most strange and true report of a monsterous fish* (1604)  
- *Secticeps Lutherus* (1529)  
- *Coronation of James I*  
- *The Devil abducts the witch of Berkeley*  
- *The Peasant Dance* (1568)  
- *The Fight between Carnival and Lent*  
- *A theatre ticket*  
- *The Robin Hood Project*, University of Rochester  
- *The Elizabethan Noble Style*  
- *Shakespeare's Plays in Quarto*  
- *Kett's Rebellion*, Virtual Norfolk  
- *Life in Elizabethan England*  
- *Cornell Witch pages*  
- *Cunning Folk*  
- *Survey of Scottish Witchcraft*  
- *Witchcraft Legends*  
- *The Renaissance of witchcraft studies*  
- *Witchcraft and Magic*, Virtual Norfolk  
- *Impact of Print*, Virtual Norfolk  
- *Early 18th century newspaper reports*  
- *Publishers, Printers, and the*  

**IMAGES**

**POPULAR AND ELITE CULTURE**
- Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525-69), *Th the Peasant Dance* (1568)  
- Pieter Bruegel, *The Fight between Carnival and Lent*  
- *Coronation of James I*  
- *Salamon de Bray, Book and Picture Shop* (1628)  
- *The Devil abducts the witch of Berkeley*  
- *The Robin Hood Project*, University of Rochester  
- *The Elizabethan Noble Style*  
- *Shakespeare's Plays in Quarto*  
- *Kett's Rebellion*, Virtual Norfolk  
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**E-RESOURCES**

**EXTERNAL LINKS**

- *The Robin Hood Project*, University of Rochester  
- *The Elizabethan Noble Style*  
- *Shakespeare's Plays in Quarto*  
- *Kett's Rebellion*, Virtual Norfolk  
- *Life in Elizabethan England*  
- *Cornell Witch pages*  
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- *Survey of Scottish Witchcraft*  
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**AUDIO LINKS:**

- BBC Radio 4 'In Our Time' programme on *Witchcraft*  
- Search for suitable versions of the following pieces on *http://uk.youtube.com*
• ‘The Gelding of the Devil’, composed by John Playford
• ‘New Oysters’, composed by Thomas Ravenscroft

SECONDARY LITERATURE

a) Popular and Elite Culture

- " ‘The Politics of the Excluded c.1500-1850’ (2001)
- S. L. Kaplan (ed.), *Understanding Popular Culture* (1984), esp. chs 3, 5, 7, 9

b) Witchcraft

- “ ‘The “gendering” of witchcraft in French demonology: misogyny or polarity?’, *French History* 5 (1991)
- N. Cohn, *Europe’s Inner Demons* (1975)
- " (ed.), *Witchhunting in Early Modern Europe: General Studies* (1992)
- " , 'Witchcraft and the Western Imagination', in *TRHS*, 6th series, 16 (2006)

c) Print

- C. Cipolla, *Literacy and Development in the West* (1969)
- " , 'Literacy and society in the West 1500-1850', *Social History* 8 (1983)