

# The Galileo Affair

HIS 350L—39395 / R S 357—43680  
Fall 2012  
GAR 0.128  
MW 3:30–5:00

Prof. Bruce J. Hunt  
office: GAR 2.106 232–6109  
MW 1:30–3:00, and by appt.  
bjhunt@mail.utexas.edu

This course will focus on the life and work of Galileo Galilei (1564–1642), particularly his conflict with Church authorities and his official condemnation in 1633. We will also relate Galileo's work to several broader contexts: the development of science in the 16th and 17th centuries; court life and patronage in early modern Italy; and the long history of relations between science and religion.

Each student will:

- lead or co-lead a class discussion on one of the topics listed below,
- write a 3–4 page paper related to that topic,
- write a 15–18 page research paper, a draft version of which will be presented to the class for discussion toward the end of the semester, and
- write a 2–3 page critique of a draft version of another student's paper.

Course grades will be +/- and will be based on your class presentation (10%); your short paper (10%); the draft version of your research paper (10%); the final version of your research paper (40%); your written critique of another student's draft (10%); and your participation in class discussions, including your presentation of the draft version of your research paper (20%). You will be expected to attend all class meetings, and attendance will figure in your participation score.

**Readings:** Richard J. Blackwell, *Galileo, Bellarmine, and the Bible*,  
Dava Sobel, *Galileo's Daughter*,  
Galileo Galilei, *The Essential Galileo* (ed. Maurice Finocchiaro),  
Maurice Finocchiaro (ed.), *The Galileo Affair: A Documentary History*,  
plus a packet of readings available at IT Copy, 512 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.

- Aug. 29 Introduction: aims and structure of the course.
- Sept. 5 Political and religious background: Italy, 1500–1640; the Reformation and Counter Reformation (Finocchiaro, 1–15; Blackwell, 5–27, 181–84; packet: Pedersen).
- Sept. 10 Scientific background: early modern Aristotelianism and its critics (Finocchiaro, 15–43).
- Sept. 12 Galileo's origins, education, and early career (Galileo, 1–16; Sobel, 3–24).
- Sept. 17 Galileo's early experiments on motion (Galileo, 300–306, 334–51, 356–67; packet: Settle; Drake and MacLachlan).
- Sept. 19 Galileo and the telescope (Galileo, 45–84, 97–102; packet: Van Helden).
- Sept. 24 Galileo, patronage, and the Medici court (Sobel, 25–58; packet: Biagioli; Shank; Westfall, "Science and Patronage").
- Sept. 26 Science and scripture: Galileo's letters to Castelli and Christina (Sobel, 59–70; Finocchiaro, 47–118; Blackwell, 29–85).

- Oct. 1 Foscarini, Bellarmine, and the 1616 “trial” (Sobel, 71–83; Finocchiaro, 134–53; Blackwell, 87–134, 217–76; packet: Westfall, “Bellarmino”).
- Oct. 3 Choosing a topic and getting started on your research papers.
- Oct. 8 Galileo on the Web and in the library: locating and evaluating source materials.
- Oct. 10 *The Assayer* and its aftermath. (Galileo, 179–89; Finocchiaro, 198–206; Sobel, 84–152)
- Oct. 15 The contentious publication of Galileo’s *Dialogue*. (Galileo, 190–271; Sobel, 153–227; Finocchiaro, 206–214; packet: Westfall, “*Dialogue*”)
- Oct. 17 Progress reports on research papers; allocation of presentation dates.
- Oct. 22 Galileo’s fall from favor: Pope Urban VIII and the events of 1632. (Sobel, 231–241; Finocchiaro, 218-42; packet: Redondi)
- Oct. 24 Galileo’s “second trial”: the initial Inquisition proceedings, 1633. (Sobel, 242–281; Finocchiaro, 242–55)
- Oct. 29 Double crossed? Galileo’s interrogation, recantation, and condemnation, 1633. (Finocchiaro, 256–93; packet: Blackwell)
- Oct. 31 Galileo’s last years. (Sobel, 285–368)
- Nov. 5 Retrying Galileo: the Galileo Affair since 1633. (Blackwell, 135–79; packet: Finocchiaro; Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Poupard)
- Nov. 7 Presentation and discussion of draft research papers.
- Nov. 12 /
- Nov. 14 /
- Nov. 19 /
- Nov. 21 /
- Nov. 26 /
- Nov. 28 /
- Dec. 3 /
- Dec. 5 /; course evaluation
- Dec. 10 Revised papers due in my office by 4:00 pm for grading.

**Academic integrity:** All students will be expected to live up to the highest standards of academic integrity, and in particular to observe the policies on plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and related matters laid out in the section on “Scholastic Dishonesty” found under the “UT Policies” link on the course Blackboard page.

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 or 232-2937 (video phone), or at <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>