# Unit Y304: The Church and Medieval Heresy c.1100–1437

Note: Based on 3x 50 minute lessons per week

Terms based on 6 term year.

This theme focuses on the nature and extent of heresy in Medieval Europe and the response of the Catholic Church during this period. Although questions will not be set in isolation on specific heretical movements, the following movements should be studied: Cathars, Waldensians, Hussites, Lollards, Bogomils, Free Spirit, Fraticelli, Henricians, Patarenes. The strands identified below are not to be studied in isolation to each other. Learners are not expected to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the specification content, except for the named in-depth studies, but are expected to know the main developments and turning points relevant to the theme.

| **Key Topic** | **Indicative content from specification** | **extended Content** | **Suggested Reading** |
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| **The causes and nature of the heretical movements** | The condition of the medieval Church, the geo-political structure of medieval Europe, increase in lay piety, intellectual developments, the geographical spread of heresy, the size of the movements, frequency and duration; the strategy and organisation of the movements. | * Development and growth of the Church in the Early Medieval period, papal schisms, concept of Crusading, the Papal reform movement, monastic developments, friars * The importance of the Christian church in early Medieval Europe, concept of the papacy and challenges to it * Power of the Church over state and people * The geo-political structure of Europe and the extent of the power of monarchs and states – France etc * Condition of the Church; abuses, clerical marriage * Relationships between Church and state; (eg Investiture Crisis, appointment of bishops) * Spread of new ideas, impact of C12 Renaissance, role of Universities * Causes of Heresy:   + Philosophical – Peter Abelard’s Sic et Non, arguments against Church organisation due to absence of scriptural basis, normalists, role of universities   + Political Factors - Investiture controversy, incitement of civil wars, refusal of ecclesiastical lords to grant | R. I. Moore, *The War On Heresy: Faith and Power in Medieval Europe* (Profile Books, 2014)  R. I. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Authority and Deviance in Western Europe 950-1250* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2006)  Malcolm Barber, *The Cathars* (Longman Higher Education, 2000)  Peter Biller and Anne Hudson (eds), *Heresy and Literacy, 1000-1350* (Cambridge UP, 1994)  Heinrich Fichtenau, *Heretics and scholars in the High Middle Ages, 1000-1200*, trans. Denise A. Kaiser (Pennsylvania State University Press, |

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|  |  | charters of liberty leading to unrest and revolt, independence from central power   * + Social factors – growing numbers of poor, failure to connect with growing middle classes, isolation   + Religious Factors – poor education of many clerics, corruption, use of Latin alienated the public, accessibility of scriptures, wealth of the Church * The different locations of heresy and patterns * Differing sizes, frequency and duration of groups including:   + Beguines   + Albigensians   + Cathars   + Hussites   + Joachimites   + Lollards   + Waldensians * Methods used by different groups | 1998)  Lester K. Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe* (Cornell UP, 1978)  Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: Cathars and Catholics in a French Village, 1294-1324*, trans. Barbara Bray (1978; Harmondsworth, 1980)  Malcolm Lambert, *Medieval Heresy. Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation*, 2nd ed (Blackwell, 1992)  R. I. Moore, *The Origins of European Dissent* (1977; repr. University of Toronto Press, 1994)  W. L. Wakefield and A. P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (1969; repr. Columbia UP, 1991) |
| **Support for heretical movements** | Nature of the support: gender, social class and age; the leadership and organisation of the heretical movements; the differences between the movements; the reasons for the limited success and/or failure of the movements. | * Overview of different groups of heretics including make up, leadership, organisation, success and failures and comparisons between:   + Beguines   + Cathars   + Hussites   + Joachimites   + Lollards   + Waldensians * Differences between these groups and reasons why some had more success than others. * The importance of gender and class support, reasons for that support; comparisons between the groups | R. I. Moore, *The War On Heresy: Faith and Power in Medieval Europe* (Profile Books, 2014)  R. I. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Authority and Deviance in Western Europe 950-1250* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2006)  Malcolm Barber, *The Cathars* (Longman Higher Education, 2000)  Peter Biller and Anne Hudson (eds), *Heresy and Literacy, 1000-1350* (Cambridge UP, 1994)  Heinrich Fichtenau, *Heretics and scholars in the High Middle Ages, 1000-1200*, trans. Denise A. Kaiser (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998)  Lester K. Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe* (Cornell UP, 1978)  Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou :Cathars and Catholics in a French Village, 1294-1324*, trans. Barbara Bray (1978; Harmondsworth, 1980)  Malcolm Lambert, *Medieval Heresy. Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation*, 2nd ed (Blackwell, 1992)  R. I. Moore, *The Origins of European Dissent* (1977; repr. University of Toronto Press, 1994)  W. L. Wakefield and A. P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (1969; repr. Columbia UP, 1991) |
| **The impact of heretical movements upon the medieval Church** | The response of the medieval church to the threat of heresy at the time, the Crusades against heresy, the extent to which heresy presented a challenge to the medieval Church. | * Different ways the Church responded over the time period, from Inquisition to individual roles. * The crusades, including the Albigensian Crusade, successes and action taken by the Church. * Legislation and burnings * Response of governments and reasons for their response; how effective were the responses? * Assessment of how well the medieval church dealt with heresy * What makes a heretical group a threat? * How serious a threat the heretical movements were, comparison of the threat of different heretical groups. | R. I. Moore, *The War On Heresy: Faith and Power in Medieval Europe* (Profile Books, 2014)  R. I. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Authority and Deviance in Western Europe 950-1250* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2006)  Malcolm Barber, *The Cathars* (Longman Higher Education, 2000)  Peter Biller and Anne Hudson (eds), *Heresy and Literacy, 1000-1350* (Cambridge UP, 1994)  Heinrich Fichtenau, *Heretics and scholars in the High Middle Ages, 1000-1200*, trans. Denise A. Kaiser (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998)  Lester K. Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe* (Cornell UP, 1978)  Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: Cathars and Catholics in a French Village, 1294-1324*, trans. Barbara Bray (1978; Harmondsworth, 1980)  Malcolm Lambert, *Medieval Heresy. Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation*, 2nd ed (Blackwell, 1992)  R. I. Moore, *The Origins of European Dissent* (1977; repr. University of Toronto Press, 1994)  W. L. Wakefield and A. P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (1969; repr. Columbia UP, 1991) |
| **Maintenance of church authority** | Propaganda produced against heresy, individual clerical responses (Bernard of Clairvaux/Caeserius of Heisterbach); | * Types of propaganda used and impact of the propaganda * Bernard of Clairvaux (could be combined with below) and preaching, writings * Caeserius of Heisterbach – slay them, God knows his own – sermons given. | R. I. Moore, *The War On Heresy: Faith and Power in Medieval Europe* (Profile Books, 2014)  R. I. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Authority and Deviance in Western Europe 950-1250* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2006)  Malcolm Barber, *The Cathars* (Longman Higher Education, 2000)  Peter Biller and Anne Hudson (eds), *Heresy and Literacy, 1000-1350* (Cambridge UP, 1994)  Heinrich Fichtenau, *Heretics and scholars in the High Middle Ages, 1000-1200*, trans. Denise A. Kaiser (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998)  Lester K. Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe* (Cornell UP, 1978)  Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: Cathars and Catholics in a French Village, 1294-1324*, trans. Barbara Bray (1978; Harmondsworth, 1980)  Malcolm Lambert, *Medieval Heresy. Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation*, 2nd ed (Blackwell, 1992)  R. I. Moore, *The Origins of European Dissent* (1977; repr. University of Toronto Press, 1994)  W. L. Wakefield and A. P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (1969; repr. Columbia UP, 1991) |
| Preaching tours (Bernard of Clairvaux Languedoc 1140s), Church councils (4th Lateran Council 1215); | * Examples of preaching tours as a method of maintaining church authority, * Travels of Bernard to Southern France to combat heresy, preaching against Cathars. * Methods used by councils to maintain power * 4th Lateran Council – measure made against heretics * Other councils could include:   + First Council of Lyon – deposition of Frederick II   + Second Council of Lyon – approval of spiritual orders   + Council of Vienne – disbanded the Knights Templar |
| Statutes; punishments; | * Convocation * Role of bishops in regions * Laws brought in to combat heresy * Types and uses of punishments * Impact of burnings * Reform of the Church and standards of clerics |
| Popular support for the Catholic Church; counter-movements | * Reasons why people supported the church * Support from different sections of society, including women, state rulers, ordinary people |
| Literature produced against heresy (Sermons on the Song of Songs); | * Different literature produced, including the Commentary on the Song of Songs by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux and how this contributed to maintaining order. * Impact of the literature |
| Creation of spiritual orders (Franciscans, Dominicans); | * Development and growth of orders, reasons for creation * Development of Franciscans, beliefs, split and punishments * Dominic and the establishment of the Dominicans, methods use to spread church authority. |
| The Medieval Inquisition (Bernard Gui, Jacques Fournier). | * Nature of inquisitions and procedures used * Growth of inquisitions * Examples of inquisitions could include the episcopal inquisition, The Beguines and the Knights Templar * Bernard Gui’s Conduct of the Inquisition into Heretical Wickedness and advice it gives to inquisitors * The Fournier Register – the methods used and punishments handed out |
| **Depth Studies** | | | |
| * ***John Wycliffe* and the Lollards to c.1420** | Wycliffe’s views and writings; Wycliffe’s attacks on the Papacy and monasticism, his doctrine of the church, his views on the Bible; the | * Views and attacks on the church, monasticism, the papacy, * Writings including:   + De civili dominio   + De incarcerandis fedelibus   + De officio regis   + Doctrine of the Lord’s Supper   + Dialogus   + Trialogus   + Opus evangelicum * Translation of the Bible into English | R. Rex, *The Lollards (Social History in Perspective)* (2002; Palgrave Macmillan)  F. Somerset and J. Havens, *Lollards and their influence in Late Medieval England* (2009; Boydell Press)  J.C. Ryle, *John Wycliffe* and his work (2013l Titus Books)  L.J.Daly, *The political theory of John Wycliffe* (1962, Loyola Univseity Press)  K. Ghosh, *The Wycliffe Heresy: Authority and the Interpretation of Texts* (2001, Cambridge University Press)  S. Lahey, *John Wycliffe* (2009, Oxford University Press) |
| Appeal of his writing; political support for Wycliffe and the reasons for this support; | * Reasons why people supported his views and political supporters. Initial support from some clergy and the aristocracy, including support from John of Gaunt * Changing opinions following his dismissal of transubstantiation. * Influence of the Peasants’ Revolt on Wycliffe’s support. |
| Responses to Wycliffe’s writings and preaching; | * Responses by the church and state to Wycliffe * The Earthquake Synod * Oxford Synod * Papal Bull of Gregory XI |
| Lollardy, the beliefs of Lollards, reasons for and the extent of support, nature, geography and social composition of the support, duration of the movement; | * 12 conclusions of the Lollards * Belief in corruption of Catholic Church * Iconoclasm * Beliefs in lay priesthood and position of confession as well as challenging clerical celibacy. * Spread of Lollard beliefs * Reasons for the support and social composition, including the Lollard Knights. |
| response by the authorities to Wycliffe and Lollards, reasons for the failure of Lollardy. | * Response of the state – De heretic comburendo – scale of persecution * Oldcastle rebellion * Church responses * Attitude of Henry IV * Failures – including lack of a printing press, limited literacy of people, popularity of Catholicism, peasants revolt and Oldcastle forcing state to side with church, anarchic nature of Lollardy belief in primacy of individual conscience * Reasons for decline |
| * **The Mendicant Orders** | St Dominic and his approach to the Cathars; the founding of the Dominicans as a preaching order; the Dominicans and the universities; | * Initial public debates in missions to Languedoc and decision to ‘meet zeal with zeal’. * Creation of the Dominican order as a result. * Beliefs of the Dominicans * Spread of Dominicans across Europe. * Changes made following expansion of the Order * Targeting university towns – belief that “Dominic’s policy is clear: it was from the great universities of Europe that he wanted his order to radiate” Examples could include Oxford University. | C.H. Lawrence, *The Friars: The impact of the Mendicant orders on Medieval Society* (2013, I.B.Taruis)  J. Herkless & O. Smeaton, *The World’s Epoch-Makers: Francis and Dominic and the Mendicant Orders* (2016, Leopold Classic Library)  J. Sarnowsky, *Mendicants, Military orders, and Regionalism in Medieval Europe* (1999, Routledge) |
| St Francis, poverty and the founding of the Franciscans and Poor Clares, the split between Spirituals (Joachim of Fiore) and Conventionals; | * Beliefs of St Francis * Commitment to a life of poverty * Founding of the Friars minor (Fransicans) * Beliefs of the Fransicans * Growth and development of Fransicans * Establishment of the Poor Clares and the Third Order * Establishment of The Order of Friars Minor Conventuals – beliefs and practices * Beliefs of Joachim and condemnation of his ideals * Results and impact of the split. |
| the impact of the Mendicant Orders on the towns. | * Impact both orders had on towns. * Comparison of impact |
| * **Huss and the Hussites 1400–1436** | The influence of Wycliffe and Huss’ attack on the Church; Bohemian nationalism; | * Hus’ beliefs and translations of Wycliffe * Attempts at reforming the church * Response to papal denounciations of Wycliffe * Political situation * Actions taken in support of Bohemia, including changing university voting patterns (Kutná Hora Decree) | Count Lutzow, *The Hussite Wars* (2015, Forgotten Books)  H. Kaminsky, *A History of the Hussite Revolution* (2004, Wipf & Stock Publishers)  D. Schaff, John Huss: His life, teachings and Death (2012, Forgotten Books)  J. Black, *John Huss – A Short Biography* (2011, Shamrock Eden Publishing) |
| The Council of Constance 1414–1415; | * Condemnation of Hus at the council * Trial of Hus and verdict * Execution of Hus and consequences |
| Creation and beliefs of a Bohemian Church 1415–1419; Papal and imperial attitudes; | * Response to Hus’ execution in Bohemia * Creation and belief of the Church * Responses of the authorities and the Church |
| The Hussite settlements; The Hussite Wars and Crusades 1419–1434; | * Nature and location of settlements * Causes of the wars * Key events of the wars * Responses from the Church and calling of the crusades against the Hussite’s * Events and impact of the five anti-Hussite crusades |
| Divisions between moderates and radicals (Taborites), the leadership of Zizka and final defeat 1434; | * Emerging disagreements and reasons for divisions * Role of Zizka * Battle of Lipany between Ultraquists and the Taborites. |
| foreign involvement (German rulers, Poland and Lithuania); | * Extent of foreign involvement on both sides and significance |
| Council of Basle 1431–1436 and the Compacts of 1436; Bohemian Church survival and the Moravian Brethren; | * Negotiations and decisions made at Basle. * Content of the Compacts * The Bohemian Ultaquist Church * Unitas Fratrum * Unity of the Brethren |
| The extent of Bohemian and Hussite social, political and cultural revolution. | * Extent of the Bohemian reformation * Was there a revolution? |

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