

Galileo: Faith, Reason, and the New Science

Wednesday 8/10/22 at 6:00-7:30pm CST
Saturday, 8/13/22 at 10:30am – 2:30pm CST
Location: Remote
Instructor: Robert J Porwoll
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Course Description

Galileo Galilei (d.1642) remains a hero of early modern science and considered a ‘father of modern science.’ His work on Copernican theory and famous trial have won him a place as a champion of reason and science against the apparent forces of irrational power and authoritarianism. But does the Galileo in history match the Galileo legend? This course will introduce important contexts before examining Galileo’s own views on faith and reason, the documents and history of Galileo’s later inquisitorial trial, and finally the discussing the ways we might interpret Galileo’s meaning today.

Course Books

- *The Galileo Affair: A Documentary History*, ed. Maurice A. Finocchiaro, University of California Press; ISBN-10: 0520066626 ISBN-13: 978-0520066625 =TGA
- [Other readings will be supplied as pdfs]

Course Schedule

Week Before

Online videos will be available for contextualizing and framing our discussion. The readings will be found in the volume (*The Galileo Affair*) and documents provided. Another video introduce the mechanics of the course, course expectations and methods.

Wednesday, 6pm-7:30pm

Session 1: Galileo the Astronomer and Theologian

- Introductions and Start-Up
- Galileo’s *Letter to the Duchess Christina* (pg. 87-118 in *The Galileo Affair /TGA*)
- Question: What is Galileo’s view of the relation between Natural Knowledge and Theology? How does he defend his view?

Saturday, 10:30am-12:00pm

Session 2: Galileo and the Inquisition

- Galileo’s Informal Examination and the Decree against Copernicanism (pg. 146-149 in TGA)
- Cardinal Bellarmine’s Letter to Foscarini, Certificate for Galileo (pg. 67-69, 153 in TGA)
- Galileo’s Preface & ending of *Dialogue on the Two World Systems* (pg. 214-218 in TGA)
- Inquisition Records of Galileo’s Trial: Special Commission Report; Later Inquisition Records (pg. 218-222, 256-293 in TGA, with focus on:
 - o First Deposition, 256-262

- o Extra Judicial Offer, 276-277
- o Second & Third Depositions, and Defense, 277-281,
- o Fourth Deposition, Sentence, and Abjuration, 286-293

Break for Lunch: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Saturday, 1pm-2:30pm

Session 3: Which Galileo?

- Finocchiaro, “That Galileo was Imprisoned and Tortured...” (pdf)
- Rafael Martinez, “[What does the decree on Copernicanism say?](#)” (pdf)
- John Brooke, “[Understanding the Galileo Affair: the Uses of History in the Subsequent Contexts](#)” (pdf)