Midterm Report Guidelines
Witchcraft Trials and Pagan Beliefs: The case of England and Scotland

After discussing your reading materials and the documentary “Gods and Monsters: Witches” (BBC 4, 2014), consider the questions below for your midterm report. You do not have to answer these questions one by one, but think about the ideas and concepts they aim at and express your thoughts in a short essay (700 – 900 words).

1. What social, economic, and historical conditions or ideas created the fear that led to both the witchcraft accusations and the confessions?

2. Why would innocent people confess to the crime of witchcraft? Consider the processes that were part of the trials and the role of “sacred” books such as the Malleus Maleficarum.

3. How would you describe the majority of the accused victims? Did they have any traits in common? Describe them and provide your analysis.

4. Identify and explain at least THREE main reasons for the persecution of women and other victims of the Witchcraze in Europe during the period we studied. Consider the characteristics of society (loneliness, violence, poverty, servitude) and justify your opinion.

REMEMBER to CITE your sources! If you copy information from your reading materials without proper citation, it will be considered plagiarism. Follow the guidelines for academic citation (MLA or APA format) provided in the LINKS section of your lecture’s website. In-text citation (e.g.: “According to xxx in his article “yyy”; “Based on the article by xxx”…) is ABSOLUTELY necessary.

Submit your group report in Word-compatible form by email no later than Wednesday 3rd November, 2021 by 9:00 AM.

Jan Luyken. Burning in Amsterdam in 1549. Engraving XVII. (Image source: janluyken.com)