

DUE: MONDAY, February 26 (10:00 AM)

Bring a printed copy to class.

Creating Cultures Extra Credit [optional]

Throughout the course, we have been looking at how previous works of literature have shaped the way we view the United States today. One particular instance of colonial life that has left its mark on the nation is the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. We read in our textbook several accounts of the trials and many adaptations have been made in the last century.

Choose one of the following modern texts of the Salem Witch Trials, and prepare to respond to 3 short answer questions.

- The Simpsons “Treehouse of Horror VIII”:
<http://www.simpsonsworld.com/video/279170627965>
- Saturday Night Live “Salem Witch Trial”:
<http://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/salem-witch-trials/n9343?snl=1>
- Monty Python “Witch Village”: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=k3jt5ibfRzw>

Remember:

This should be an analysis of the text and the media - not a summary. We are thinking about **How has this narrative changed, if at all?** And **Why?** We are not summarizing.

Be sure to fully answer each of the following questions, with a one paragraph (4-6 sentences) explanation per question.

1. Discuss how the portrayals of the Trials in this medium have shifted or reinforced the feelings, beliefs, and cultural associations Americans make with the event today.
2. Compare Cotton Mather’s *The Wonders of the Invisible World* (1692) with your chosen modern text. How has public memory of the Trials changed? How does the medium affect public opinion?
3. Why do you think The Salem Witch Trials still captivates American attention? Provide reasoning to support your claim.

This assignment should be roughly 1 to 1.5, double-spaced pages in length. You will be graded on the depth of your analysis and reasoning. Remember that this assignment is meant to help you practice essential skills you’ll use on the midterm, so we encourage everyone to complete it.