The Galileo Affair

William Clark / wiclark@ucsd.edu / Class: Friday 12:00-2:50 PM, HSS 6008
Office: 2302 HSS, East Wing / Hours: Friday 4:00-7:00 PM

**Grading:** This will be based on a final paper (70%) and class participation (30%), the latter including attendance and giving one or more of the reports, as detailed in the syllabus below.

**Readings:** Many or most of the readings below are optional. The only required readings or videos are indicated under each session by “read” or “watch”; readings or videos indicated as “suggested” or “background” are not required; those indicated as “reports” will only read by the person doing the relevant report.

**Class website:** [https://ted.ucsd.edu](https://ted.ucsd.edu)

**Readings (at UCSD Bookstore):**

**Readings (articles or selected chapters as pdfs on class website):**
Biagioli, Mario. 1996. “Playing with the Evidence.” *Early Science and Medicine, 1/1: 70-105.

**Videos (as mp4s on class website):**

**Readings (on reserve at Geisel Library):**

**Date / Session / Topic & Sources:**
April
06 / 01 **INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE & TRIAL OF GALILEO**

13 / 02 **OVERVIEW OF COPERNICANISM & THE LIFE & TRIAL OF GALILEO**

20 / 03 **GALILEO & COPERNICANISM, 1610-1615**
Reports: Galileo, *The Starry Messenger* (1610); “Foscarini’s Letter” (1615).
27 / 04 **Galileo, the Bible & the Ban on Copernicanism, 1615-1616**  
**Background:** Fantoli, *Galileo* (2003) chap. 3.  
**Report:** The Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) & the Catholic Church.

May  
04 / 05 **From the Ban to the Trial, 1616-1633**  
**Background:** Fantoli, *Galileo* (2003) chaps. 4-5.  
**Reports:** Galileo’s “Discourse on the Tides” (1616); “Galileo’s Reply to Ingoli” (1624); Galileo, *Dialogue on Two Chief World Systems* (1632); Copernicus & Jesuit Astronomy.

11 / 06 **Documenting the Trial, 1633**  

18 / 07 **Interpretations of the Trial: Redondi & Biagioli**  

25 / 08 **The Trial of Galileo in Myth & History, 1633-1900**  
**Reports:** Galileo & the Trial in the 19th century; Brecht & his Galileos (1939-47); Bronowski & *The Ascent of Man* (1973).

June  
01 / 09 **Reassessing Galileo & the Trial (I), 1900-2012**  
**Reports:** Monkey Trial (2002); *The Trials of Oppenheimer* (2009).

08 / 10 **Reassessing Galileo & the Trial (II), 1900-2012**  
**Suggested:** Artigas et al., “New Light” (2005); Beretta, “The Documents” (2005a); Beretta “Galileo, Urban VIII” (2005b); Coyne, The Church’s” (2005); Fantoli, “Galileo” (2002).