FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

HIST 3430: The World of Elizabeth I

Summer 2020; Tuesday/Thursday, 9.00 – 12.00
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12.00-2.00; Thursdays 12.00-2.00, or by appointment (Room 422c)

Course Description

Elizabeth Tudor, queen of England and Ireland, is one of the most fascinating figures in history. She is that rare bird: a person of some historical antiquity but whose name and face are instantly recognisable today and whose life remains compelling 400 years after her death. This course seeks to move beyond the standard biographical studies of Elizabeth I by exploring the world in which the last Tudor sovereign inhabited. It will do so by looking at four overlapping themes which together shaped the Elizabethan world (1558-1603): state and society in the kingdom of England; the politics and diplomacy of Reformation Europe; the extension of Tudor rule in the kingdom of Ireland; and England’s overseas discoveries. This course will be taught as an *eloquencia perfecta* seminar and so will seek to enhance students’ ability both to express their thoughts clearly, through the written word, and to communicate their ideas gracefully, through the spoken word. In practice this means that the course will place great emphasis on writing – two extended research papers – and public speaking, which will take the form of two presentation. As a ‘hybrid’ summer course, students are expected to read, explore and complete activities outside of our synchronous meetings which will be held through the Zoom platform on Tuesday and Thursday mornings owing to the pandemic. It will thus feature a mixture of lectures, discussion, homework and student presentations.

Required Readings
Readings will also regularly be drawn from the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004), which is available online through the Fordham Library. Another good source is: [www.tudors.org](http://www.tudors.org)

Additional Readings
Academic articles, primary sources and book chapters will, from time to time, be placed in ‘A-RES’, or assigned in class to be accessed through JSTOR or other academic search engines. Students will be notified in advance of the appearance of all additional readings.

General Course Outline

**Introduction:** Elizabeth I, the Historians and the Legacy of Henry VIII

**Part I: Elizabethan England**
(Primary Reading: Collinson, ‘Elizabeth I’; Haigh, *Elizabeth I*; Mortimer, *Time traveler’s guide*)

The Structure of Tudor Government
[Workshop: Academic Speaking]
Society in Elizabethan England: from court to cottage
Part II: Europe
(Primary Reading, Doran, Elizabeth I and foreign policy)

Elizabeth, the Tudors and the Reformation
[Workshop: Introduction to Tudor Source Materials]
Mary, Queen of Scots and Scotland
The Netherlands, France and Spain

Part III: Ireland: The Second Tudor Kingdom
(Primary Reading, Maginn, William Cecil)

Elizabeth’s Irish Problem
Strategies for Control
Elizabeth’s Failure: the Nine Years’ War (1594-1603) and the Crisis of the 1590s

Part IV: Discovery
(Primary Reading: Sir Walter Raleigh, Richard Hakluyt, in ODNB)

West: The (Lost) Colony at Roanoke; the Atlantic; and the North-West Passage
East: Muscovy and Asia

Writing Assignments
Students will be responsible for two extended research essays which must be submitted as hard copy on, or before, the due date. The first essay, 7-10 pages, is due Thursday 11th June; the second essay, 12-15 pages, is due at our final meeting Thursday 25th June. Advanced drafts of each essay must be submitted a week prior to the due date, so that students may incorporate into their work the instructor’s feedback which will be given to each student individually. There will also be four short (2-3 page) ‘Response’ Papers due on each Friday: one for each of the first four weeks of the course. Further information concerning the written assignments, including the writing workshop, will be supplied in due course. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity. Individuals attempting to present as their own what has come from another source will result, in the first instance, in a failure for the assignment. Any instance of plagiarism discovered thereafter may result in failure for the entire course.

Oral Presentations
There will be two oral presentations in addition to the written assignments: the presentations will take place on Tuesday 2nd June and again on Tuesday 23rd June. Each student will deliver, in the first instance, a three to five-minute academic presentation on a key figure from the Elizabethan court and, in the second, a ten to fifteen-minute presentation on a central theme in the Elizabethan world (ideally one which relates to the student’s final paper).

Attendance: time is of the essence in any summer session, but in a ‘hybrid’ course our meeting are fewer still – only excused absences will be permitted.

Grading
Presentation 1 15% of final grade
Essay 1 25% of final grade
Presentation 2 20% of final grade
Essay 2 30% of final grade
Class Participation 10%
• Failure to submit a response paper will result in a final mark lowered by 10%.

Additional Weekly Reading/Activities

Part I: weeks/modules 1-2 (26 May – 4 June)

+ Watch: David Starkey’s documentary Elizabeth I: from Prison to Palace (pt 1) the Virgin Queen (pt 2) Heart of King (pt 3) Gloriana (pt 4) (in four parts, 50 minutes each: available on You Tube).
+ View: Portraits of a Queen: http://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp01452/queen-elizabeth-i
+ Watch: Tudor Monastery Farm BBC 2 Documentary (in six parts, 58 minutes each: available on You Tube).

• Response Paper*: Due Friday 31 May: As a ruler what could Queen Elizabeth do and not do?
• Response Paper: Due Friday 7 June: What aspect of life in Elizabethan times do you find most interesting and why?

Part II: week/module 3 (9 June – 11 June)

+ Watch: Bloody Queens I Elizabeth and Mary (2016) BBC Documentary (60 minutes: available on You Tube).
+ Read: Jane Dawson, ‘William Cecil and the British dimension of early Elizabethan foreign policy’, in History [I will e-mail this], 74 (1989), 196-216.
* Manuscript work: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/default.htm

• Response Paper: Due Friday 14th June: What religion were the people of Elizabethan England?

Part III: week/module 4 (16 June – 19 June)

+ Watch: BBC’s The Story of Ireland (pt 2) 58 minutes: available on You Tube.
Read: David Edwards, “‘Some days two heads some days four’”, in *History Ireland* [Online Journal – Fordham Library], 17 (2009), 18-21.

- *Response Paper: Due Friday 21 June: Why did Ireland pose such a problem for Elizabeth and her government?*

**Part IV: week/module 5 (23 June – 25 June)**

Visit: https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/exploration-and-trade-in-elizabethan-england
Visit: The Lost Colony of Roanoke: http://firstcolonyfoundation.org/News/2012_white_map.php

- *Response papers are intended to be less formal than the two extended research papers. They are meant to show an engagement with the week’s material, but citations, in the form of footnotes, endnotes or parentheticals, are not necessary. As noted above Response papers, which should be sent electronically, are due each Friday (by 6.00 PM).*