HIST 601: READING SEMINAR: RELIGION & POLITICS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 & by appointment
Spring 2019
Classroom: Univ. Hall 319
Wednesdays, 3:30-6:20

Course description
This graduate reading seminar focuses on the historiographical debates over religious and political conflict in the British Isles in the early modern era. In addition to reading the secondary scholarship, we will take time to examine and discuss primary source materials. Our topics include: late medieval Catholicism and the impact of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations on politics, culture, and society in sixteenth-century; gender and violence in England and Ireland in the early seventeenth century; Puritanism in early Stuart England and radical sectarianism during the Civil Wars; Restoration politics and culture; the Glorious Revolution, and the impact of empire, nationalism, and religious pluralism in early eighteenth-century Britain.

Required Reading
Requirements

1) **Short essays:** students will write short (2 page) essays nearly every week
2) **Class participation:** attendance and participation is mandatory.

**Grades** will be based on the student's participation in class (25%) and short essays (75%).

**Rules of the Game:**

Never walk into class late. Silence your cell-phone once you enter the class room. No laptops please.

Use proper email etiquette (an email should begin with a salutation such as “Dear Professor X;” and end with a proper closing, such as “Sincerely” or “Yours.”).

Students who plagiarize any portion of their written assignments will be removed from this course and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Graduate Programs.

**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Introduction to the Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>From Late Medieval to Early Modern....</td>
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<td>Discuss Bartlett, <em>The Hanged Man</em></td>
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<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Class Cancelled</td>
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<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>The Old Faith &amp; The New</td>
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<td>Discuss Duffy, <em>Voices of Morebath</em></td>
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<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>English Reformation: historiography</td>
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Feb. 13 Dressed to Kill: The Queen’s 2 bodies
Discuss Levin, *The Heart and Stomach of a King*

Feb. 20 The Seventeenth Century: the Outset

**Political Ideas:**

**Ireland**

**Queenship and Gender**

**The Hampton Court Conference**

**Witchcraft**
**Gunpowder Plot**

**Feb. 27**  
The Irish and all things beyond the Pale  
Discuss Herrup, *A House in Gross Disorder*

**March 6**  
A Puritan’s Social & Political World  
Discuss Seaver, *Wallington’s World*

**March 20**  
The Road to War: Kingship & Politics

**Charles I**

**Charles I**

**Politics**

**Culture**

**Regicide**

March 27  
**Sectarianism & The Civil War**

- Puritans
- Presbyterians
- Baptists
- Independents
- Ranters
- Family of Love
- Quakers
- Muggletonians

April 3  
**The Restoration: Politics and Religion Prior to 1688/89**


April 10  
**Restoration Literature: readings in primary sources**

Mary Astell, *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*
Mary Astell, *Reflections upon Marriage*
John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*
John Bunyan, *Pilgrim’s Progress*
Richard Baxter, *Saints Everlasting Rest*
Aphra Behn, *The Roundheads*
Aphra Behn, *The Widow Ranter*
Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*
Daniel Defoe, *A Free Born English Man*
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
Daniel Defoe, *A Journal of the Plague Year*
Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*
John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel* (to the reader, parts 1 and 2)
Margaret Fell Fox, *Women’s Speaking Justified*
Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
John Milton, *Samson Agonistes*
John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*
John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*
John Milton, *Samson Agonistes*
Algernon Sidney, *Court Maxims*
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*
John Wilmot, earl of Rochester, *A Satyr Against Reason and Mankind*

April 17

And to conclude: 1688 & All that….
Discus Pinkus

April 24

What We Learned: The History and Historiography of Early Modern England