

## HUMANITIES SEMINARS PROGRAM

### *THE TUDORS*

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Mondays 9:00-12:00

January 25-April 4, 2016 (no meeting on March 14)

### SYLLABUS

There are no assigned readings for the class. On some occasions I will try to provide handouts for consideration.

Each week the meeting will be divided into a two-hour segment that will ensure that everyone is on the same page with respect to the historical record. The last hour will be reserved for questions and discussion.

In addition, each week I will suggest for the upcoming week a variety of topics that individuals may wish to examine in order to prepare for that week's material.

#### **January 25**

Introduction; The Medieval Inheritance; and how in the world did the Tudors gain the English throne in the first place?

#### **February 1**

Henry VII (1485-1509); the primary focus this week will be on Henry's restoration of royal authority after the tumults of the fifteenth century. Henry has always been undervalued, so we will evaluate this judgment.

#### **February 8**

Henry VIII (1509-1547); in this reign Tudor politics and religion become inseparable; this week we will consider the six wives of Henry and their fates. Parliament in the sixteenth century and its relation to the crown will also be considered.

## **February 15**

The English Reformation is the key event of the sixteenth century; the context and record of religious change provides a fascinating aspect of the Tudor century.

## **February 22**

By the end of the reign, after all the major changes and events, it is useful to examine how the ordinary subject fared. The focus on people rather than elites offers a different perspective on the reign.

## **February 29**

Edward VI (1547-1553); this reign has much greater significance than its relative brevity would suggest. Why this is so continues the record of religious discord.

## **March 7**

Mary I (1553-1558); another reign often overlooked, the record of 'Bloody' Mary reflects the continuing contentious nature of Tudor public life. Is Mary's nickname deserved?

## **March 21**

Elizabeth I (1558-1603); the advent of Elizabeth ushers in perhaps the most storied reign in all English history. The great events of this era had the queen at their center and accounts for the interest Elizabeth has always attracted.

## **March 28**

Elizabeth reigned for nearly half a century' so it was inevitable that successes and failure in policy would occur. Religious policy is the primary example of this conclusion.

## **April 4**

The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1558 is the high point of the reign, but the last fifteen years of the reign hardly merit the continued praise of Gloriana. How has and does history evaluate Elizabeth is a topic of considerable interest in itself.