

HISTORY

Manipulating Monarchs: Tudor & Elizabethan Propaganda

Julia Cruse PhD

4 weeks

7, 14, 21, 28 March

Thursdays

10.30am – 12.30pm

Course code: 18TON245

Course fee: £60

This course is a repeat from 2016

Were these monarchs shrewd and cunning manipulators of their own identities and ultimately the most skilled propagandists of their eras? Debate and re-consider the iconic images of the Tudor monarchs - Henry VII, VIII, Elizabeth I - by exploring the portraiture, architecture, drama and language drawing on a variety of sources.

From the moment in 1485 after the Battle of Bosworth when the victorious Henry VII threw the naked body of his rival Richard III over the back of a horse and paraded the corpse triumphantly through the streets of Leicester, the era of a powerful and persuasive regal authority through the presentation of its public image was established.

This course examines the less known Henry VII and the impact that his insightful character and the manner in which he established his political control and social rule, had upon his son Henry VIII and granddaughter Elizabeth I. It will look at how each of these monarchs used their image and symbolic representations of their ruling dynasty to persuade and impose their rule, in each of their respective reigns, through often difficult events.

We will re-evaluate the iconic imagery, found in paintings, on coins, manuscripts and front-pieces for books. Of Holbein's famous Whitehall Mural it is asked 'Was this the greatest piece of propaganda ever?' And Elizabeth, fluent in six languages, persuasively skilful with words - how aware was she of the public's perception of her? Alongside the examination of the image is the consideration as to how the architecture of imposing buildings - for example, Hampton Court, King's College Chapel, Henry VII's chapel at Westminster Abbey - brought these monarchs public esteem and ultimately stable rule. We will look at contemporary literature considering the idea that Shakespeare's plays have been regarded as bad history but brilliant drama or possibly dazzling pieces of propaganda.

Suggested reading

Relevant excerpts and reading material will be provided as photocopies during the course.

Penn, Thomas, *Winter King: The Dawn of Tudor England* (London: Allen Lane, 2011)

Additional information

- This course is suitable as an introduction or for those with some knowledge of the period.
- This course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment.
- There may be optional research/discussion activities during the course and between sessions.

Intended learning outcomes

- To develop an understanding of the reign of Henry VII as the founder of a vital monarchical dynasty.
- To re-assess our appreciation of the Tudor and Elizabethan period and therefore to re-evaluate our 21st century interpretations.
- To develop research skills for interpreting contemporary written and visual sources.
- To examine where research enquiry can be made and how it can be furthered utilising written and visual sources, recent historical and fictional publications and websites.

About the tutor

Julia Cruse has a PhD in Medieval and Early Modern Studies and has taught undergraduates at the University of Kent. As a mature student she graduated from the University of Kent with a degree in History; her BA dissertation focused on the Paston letters. Her doctoral thesis continued her research into late medieval letter-writing and looked at gentry identity and the politics of letter-writing. She is currently continuing her exploration into the Tudor period with a focus on the Tudor palaces and the lives of the courtiers who lived in them. An ambition is to write her first novel based on her discoveries.



Short Course Programme

General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place

These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation

As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course has been confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

- a) exclude any student if the student's presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
- b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student's responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge

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- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk . No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection

Those attending our courses are automatically included in our postal mailings, to update you about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.

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