

History 4496G
Elizabeth I and Her World, 1558-1603
2024-25 | Winter 2025

Instructor: **Dr. Sara Morrison**
Email: **smorri5@uwo.ca**
Office Hours: **TBA**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Course Description

Queen Elizabeth I or Elizabeth Tudor is often referred to as the Virgin Queen in popular culture. She has fascinated scholars for centuries, reaching new heights with developments in women's and gender history, but more recently with studies in the emerging field of "Queenship and Power." Using primary and secondary sources, this seminar will explore Elizabeth I and her world 1558-1603 through history, literature, portraiture, and film.

Elizabeth I is the most studied Briton of the early modern period. Why is this? Scholarly interest has increased dramatically over the last twenty-five years, peaking at the 400th anniversary of her death in 2003. Is the growing interest in women's and gender history responsible for this escalation of historical interest? This course will consider Elizabeth I as a leader, a woman, and a queen within the context of later sixteenth century England. As a seminar course, student evaluation reflects the importance of the weekly readings and participating in class discussion; students will also be responsible for one of the weekly seminar presentations, one documentary analysis from the primary sourcebook for the course, in addition to researching and writing an original essay on a theme or topic related to Elizabeth I.

Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in third year or above
Antirequisites: History 3440E and History 3441F/G.

Course Syllabus

In this class students will be building on their research and presentation skills and upon successful competition can:

1. Identify and describe key events and influences in the Elizabethan World.
2. Evaluate Queen Elizabeth's role as a leader, a woman, and a queen.
3. Use and evaluate diverse forms of historical evidence not only from historical sources but also from literature, portraiture, and film.
4. Identify key concepts and understand the historiography of the field.
5. Develop their own research questions in consultation with faculty and pursue them through all available and appropriate primary and secondary sources.
6. Strengthen writing skills.
7. Engage with faculty and peers and in a respectful and collaborative seminar setting writing history.

This is a draft outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Methods of Evaluation

Book review (1,200 words) 2025) & brief oral presentation	20%	Wk. 6 (10 February)
Seminar	10%	TBA
Participation includes document analysis 10% TBA	30%	Ongoing
Essay Proposal and Annotated Bibliography 5% Progress Report in class 10% Final Essay 25% (12-15 pages) Accepted without penalty until Fri 28 March	40%	Week 7 (24 February) Weeks 9-11 Fri 21 March

Book Review & short Oral Report (20%) 10 February 2025 (1,200 words)

Each student will select a monograph or biography of Elizabeth I to read, write a written review, and give a short oral report in class on 10 February. This exercise using a chronological approach will establish the complex historiography surrounding Elizabeth I, providing students with a synthesis of the scholarly research to date and scope of recent scholarship.

Students seeking academic accommodation or consideration regarding absence from this class must contact their Academic Advisory office and provide formal supporting documentation. Please contact the professor before any absence; efforts will be made to either accommodate presentation in class time or during office hours.

Seminar (10%) Schedule TBA

Students will take it in turn to lead part of a seminar, and give a short presentation related to the weekly theme. TBA, depending on class size.

Class Participation (30%)

A successful seminar relies on advance preparation, regular attendance, and active participation. Students will be assigned a mark for each class, but the three lowest marks will be discounted. Students must attend at least 7 of the 12 seminars to pass the course. Seminar participation includes a short document analysis 10% selected from the documentary sourcebook Stump and Felch. Students will sign up for these weekly topics.

Research Paper (40%)

This will develop in stages:

Essay Proposal, detailed Research Question, & Annotated Bibliography Wk. 7 (5%) 24 February

Progress report (10%) in class Weeks 9-11

Final Essay (12-15 pages) due Friday 21 March accepted without penalty until 28 March. Please provide an identical paper copy.

Course-specific conditions

Students must attend at least seven of the twelve seminar meetings to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.

Students must complete all course written assignments to pass the course.

Absences and Late Assignments:

Continued absences will have a detrimental impact on participation grades and student success in this seminar class. Students must attend at least seven of our twelve seminar meetings to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments. Students must complete all written course assignments to pass the course.

Course Materials

Reading in advance and preparation are essential for a successful class. Assignments will be based on class readings, the documentary sourcebook or materials that students find in their own research.

Required Texts:

Donald Stump & Susan M. Fetch, *Elizabeth and her Age*, Norton, 2009.

Ruth Goodman, *How to be a Tudor. A Dawn to Dusk Guide to Everyday Life*, Viking 2016.

Other readings will be made available in OWL Brightspace or through Weldon Library.

Course Seminar Schedule

Week 1	Introduction: Elizabeth I and her world, 1558-1603.
Week 2	Princess Elizabeth: valuable early life lessons.
Week 3	Elizabeth's Leadership Style; Female Rule. Lessons from Mary Tudor.
Week 4	The Marriage Question, Courtships and Diplomacy.
Week 5	Virgin Mary & the Virgin Queen. Establishing the Elizabethan Church.
Week 6	"Many Elizabeths:" Elizabeth I & Historiography. <i>Book Review & oral due 20%.</i>

READING BREAK

Week 7	Elizabeth's Representation & Self Representation: Portraiture, Processions, Progresses at Court. <i>Essay Proposal & Annotated Bibliography 5% due</i>
Week 8	Elizabeth at the Movies: Reel versus Real Elizabeth.

This is a draft outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Week 9 “Two Queens and One Isle”: Anglo-Scottish Relations & the Problem of Mary Queen Scots.
Student progress reports begin (10%)

Week 10 The Armada, & the Myth of the Sea.
Student progress reports.

Essays (25%) due Friday 21 March accepted without penalty until 28 March

Week 11 The Queen’s Last Decade. The Uses of Elizabeth in Myth & Memory.
Student progress reports

Week 12 Celebrating Queen Elizabeth and her World.
How to be a Tudor or Living Like a Tudor.

Additional Statements

Communication policies: The best way to contact me is by email, after class or during office hours. Please write using your UWO email account as it is less likely to end up in spam. If my office hours do not fit your schedule, I am happy to talk after class or try to arrange an alternative time to meet. Office hours are useful to clarify any issues concerning the course but are also an opportunity for further discussion.

Classroom behavior: Please turn off your phone and use laptops for notetaking only.

Use of electronic devices: Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the student has the prior written permission of the instructor. No electronic devices are permitted during tests and examinations.

Copyright and Intellectual Property: PowerPoint lecture slides and notes are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, videorecording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright, and is prohibited.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make any use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.