

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
HIST*1050: Invitation to History: The Tudors
Fall 2026



CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the basics of the historian's craft, including interpreting primary sources, locating and critically analyzing secondary sources, and writing for history.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the Tudor Dynasty and its rule over England in the sixteenth century. Major themes of the course include the concept of legitimate monarchy and Empire, female rule, the English Reformation and religious settlement. Major topics will include the Wars of the Roses, the Act of Supremacy, War with Spain. Students will write a short research paper based on a primary source collection held in the library.

ASSESSMENT AND DUE DATES

Participation and Attendance	20 %	Classes marked with * (see Lecture Schedule)
In Class Writing Assignments	50 %	24 September; 08 October; 19 November
Final Exam (in person)	30 %	TBA

Attendance is critical to your success in this class. **Participation and Attendance** will be assessed at each class marked with an asterisk (*). You are expected to participate in small group discussions related to primary documents (document studies) and complete weekly reading quizzes which will be evaluated for completion only. This portion of the grade reflects the consistency of your attendance and engagement with the course. Therefore, these discussions and quizzes cannot be made up unless there is serious, ongoing illness or an unforeseeable issue impacting your ability to attend lectures (i.e. an unforeseeable reason requiring you to miss three or more weeks of class). Further information on how participation and attendance will be graded is posted on Courselink.

There are three **In-Class Writing Assignments** which are to be completed during class time. Instructions will be posted on Courselink and further discussed in class. Students can choose to complete these assignments by hand (pen and paper) or by using their own laptop using Respondus Lockdown browser. Students needing extra time should speak to me in advance of the class.

This course uses Turnitin Software to check for originality. All submissions must be original work and reflect the ideas and research conducted by the student. Use of AI software (e. g. ChatGPT) may result in charges of academic misconduct. Please see the instructor if you are unsure as to what tools may be used. You must keep a record of all research notes, and a complete version history of your document in case you are asked to provide it to the instructor.

The **Final Exam** will be written in person. The date and location will be announced on Web Advisor at a later date.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments for this course are to be completed during class time and submitted either on paper to me or submitted into the Courselink Dropbox before leaving class. If you miss an assignment due to illness or a similar circumstance, please contact me as soon as possible and we will arrange for a make-up period. If you miss your visit to Special Collections, you must make an appointment with Archival and Special Collections Staff to consult the material independently before completing Assignment 03. If you do not arrange to complete a missed assignment within two weeks of the due date, you will receive a 0 for that portion of the grade – unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you are experiencing difficulties (e.g., long term illness, a death in the family) or need accommodations related to a learning disability, contact me as soon as possible.

REWEIGHTING OF ASSIGNMENTS

The value of the various components for this course will **not** be reweighted, except in very exceptional cases (such as severe and prolonged illness or serious health circumstances). Each component of the course is designed to contribute to and assess different aspects of the course's learning objectives, and you are expected to complete all of them.

USE OF EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

Course slides, sample assignments, rubrics and templates are the intellectual property of the instructor. These are freely given to registered students in the course as part of their education. I do not give my permission for students to post these materials on any external commercial website or platform (e.g., CourseHero). If you are struggling in the course, arrange to meet with me and I can either help you or point you in the right direction.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following textbook will be used in the class: John Guy, *The Tudors, A Very Short Introduction*. (Oxford, 2000), publishers print price \$13.50. Readings for the Document Studies and other materials can be found on Courselink.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to: understand the historical development of many of the key elements of in early modern English History; articulate an informed historical perspective by reading primary sources in context and by analyzing their bias and limitations; deliver a clear argument and evidence in discussion and written form, document information, and deliver project elements by a specified deadline; synthesize independent research and course readings to develop a balanced historical perspective. Attendance and participation are essential to fulfilling the course objectives.

LECTURES & READING SCHEDULE

[* denotes class where attendance is mandatory]

Orientation Week

10 Sep. Introduction

No Reading

Week 01

15 Sep. *Wars of the Roses

17 Sep. *Doc. Study 01: Battle of Bosworth

Reading: Document 01 [Courselink] "Battle of Bosworth"; *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 01: Henry VII: Founding a New Dynasty.

Week 02

22 Sep. *Henry VII and the New Monarchy

24 Sep. *Assignment 01: Using the Library

Reading: *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 02: Henry VIII: The Personification of Power

Week 03

29 Sep. *Henry VIII and Consolidation of Power

01 Oct. *Doc. Study 02: Excerpt from Thomas More's *Utopia*

Reading: Document 02 [Courselink] "Excerpt from Thomas More's *Utopia*"; *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 03: The Reformation and British Imperial Kingship

Week 04

06 Oct. *Henry VIII and the Tudor Revolution in Government

08 Oct. *Assignment 02: Using Facts as Evidence

Reading: [Courselink] G. W. Bernard, "A 'Tudor Revolution in Government'?" in *Who Ruled Tudor England: Paradoxes of Power*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022.

Week 05**13 Oct. Fall Break**

15 Oct. English Reformation and the Dissolution of the Monasteries

Reading: No Reading

Week 06

20 Oct. *The Mid Tudor Crisis

22 Oct. *Doc. Study 03: Edward VI and the First Act of Uniformity

Reading: Document 03 [Courselink] "Edward VI and the First Act of Uniformity"; *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 04: Mid-Tudor Crisis and Succession

Week 07

27 Oct. *Lady Jane Grey

29 Oct. Mary I and the Spanish Marriage

Reading: *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 05: Mid-Tudor Crisis and the Succession

Week 08

03 Nov. *Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots

05 Nov. *Doc. Study 04 Tilbury Speech

Reading: Document 04 [Courselink] "Tilbury Speech"; *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 06: The Early Elizabethan Polity.

Week 09

10 Nov. *Visit to Special Collections (Groups 1-3 Meet in Library Room 246B)

12 Nov. *Visit to Special Collections (Groups 4-6 Meet in Library Room 246B)

No Reading

Week 10

17 Nov. *Elizabeth and Female Rule

19 Nov. *Assignment 03: Using Primary Sources as Evidence

Reading: *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 07: Material Culture and the Arts.

Week 11

24 Nov. *Elizabethan Government & the Matter of Succession

26 Nov. *Doc. Study 05: Elizabeth I Letter to James VI (1592)

Reading: Document 05 [Courselink] “Elizabeth I Letter to James VI (1592)” ; *A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 08: After the Armada

Week 12

01 Dec. Course Conclusion

03 Dec. Exam Review Session

No Reading

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 business days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the [SAS website](#).

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations](#).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the [Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses](#).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the [Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness](#). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a [Student Wellness Navigator](#) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our [mental wellbeing resources](#). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#).