

**Carleton University
Winter 2017
Department of English**

**ENGL 4301A/HUMS 4902: Studies in Renaissance Literature
Tudor Queens**

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing in Honours English

Day/Time: Tuesday 8:35-11:25

Professor Micheline White

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I do not read or respond to email between Friday 4:30 PM and Monday 9:00 AM.

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:35-1:35

Tudor Queens: Sex, Power, and Writing in the Lives of Katherine Parr, Mary Tudor, Elizabeth I, and Mary Queen of Scots

Renaissance queens have long fascinated the reading public, but their political power and literary writings have only recently become the objects of academic study. In this seminar, students will develop an in-depth understanding of three Renaissance queens who made the most of their unusual social status and made lasting contributions to English culture. This course will involve modern critical editions of the queens' writing and contemporary film and TV programs.

Katherine Parr (1512-1548) was the final wife of Henry VIII. Although she is often depicted in popular culture as the woman who nursed Henry in his old age, she was actually a literary powerhouse and one of the most influential religious activists of the 1540s. We will examine her three published literary texts, her narrow escape from being arrested and executed, and her scandalous marriage to Thomas Seymour after Henry's death.

Mary Tudor (1516-1558) was the eldest daughter of Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon. After acceding to the throne in 1553, she restored England to Catholicism and became famous for overseeing the burning of three hundred Protestants. For centuries she has been vilified as "bloody Mary" and as an incompetent ruler, but current scholars are offering new accounts of her reign.

Elizabeth I (1533-1603) was Parr's beloved step-daughter and is one of the most famous British monarchs. As a queen regnant, Elizabeth obviously wielded extraordinary agency and yet her status as an unmarried woman was an on-going concern throughout her reign. Through an

examination of her public speeches, private letters, portraits, poems and prayers we will consider how she brilliantly managed her public image and how she contributed to important political and literary developments. The representation of Elizabeth in recent movies (1998, 2007) will be addressed.

Mary Stuart (1542-1587) acceded to the Scottish throne when she was only six days old and lived a life plagued with political assassinations, political rebellion, and political intrigue. During her sixteen years of house arrest in England, Mary used poems and tapestries to attempt to negotiate with her cousin, Elizabeth I; we will consider Mary's failed political strategizing and its afterlife in film.

Requirements:

1. **Two** oral seminars presentations (15 minutes each) 10% each = **20%**.
If you use a powerpoint presentation, you are free to share it on our course eportfolio site.
2. **Two** 250 word abstracts summarizing the thesis of your oral presentations. To be posted to the eportfolio group by 6:00 PM the day BEFORE your presentation. Your peers will read it before coming to class. 5 % each = **10 %**
3. **Two** seminar papers based on your oral presentations. (2000 words each) = 30% x 2= **60 %**
4. **One** 300 word post about a queen that you do not present on. = **5%**
5. Attendance and contributions to the discussion = **5%**

Required Texts, Movies, and TV:

Katherine Parr: Complete Works and Correspondence, ed. Janel Mueller. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011. Available on reserve or through a book store of your choice.

Elizabeth I: Collected Works, eds. Leah S. Marcus, Janel Mueller, and Mary Beth Rose. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. Available on reserve or through a book store of your choice.

Reading Monarch's Writing: the Poetry of Henry VIII, Mary Stuart, Elizabeth I, and James VI/I, ed. Peter C. Herman. Tempe, Ariz.:Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2002. On reserve.

Selections from *The Tudors* (Showtime, 2007-2010). Rent on iTunes for 2.99 each.

Elizabeth (directed by Shekhar Kapur, 1998). rent on iTunes for 5.00

Elizabeth: The Golden Years (directed by Shekhar Kapur, 2011). rent on iTunes for 5.00

Optional Texts:

Philippa Gregory's *The Taming of a Queen* (August 2015)

Reading Schedule: subject to minor changes

10 Jan: course intro; overview of renaissance attitudes towards women and queens

17 Jan: Katherine Parr's *Psalms or Prayers* and Henry VIII's last war. Parr's war-time letters to Henry.

24 Jan: Katherine Parr's near arrest and submission. John Foxe's *Acts and Monuments* (1570) and *The Tudors*. Philippa Gregory's *The Taming of a Queen* (August 2015) (optional)

31 Jan: Elizabeth's childhood books as gifts. Excerpts from Parr's *Lamentation of a Sinner* (1547). Nicholas Udall's Praise of Katherine Parr (1548).

07 Feb: Mary Tudor: speeches and iconography

14 Feb: Elizabeth's first few years: Elizabeth's Procession through London in 1559; the Religious Settlement, early marriage petitions, and small pox. Kapur's *Elizabeth* (1998).

Prof. David Dean (History): "Staging the Elizabethan Settlement: Kapur's *Elizabeth*," *Parliamentary History* (2015).

21 Feb. reading week

28 Feb: Elizabeth's middle years: marriage negotiations with the Duc d'Anjou, poetry, and portraits. Kapur's *Elizabeth* (1998).

07 March: Elizabeth's middle years: marriage negotiations with the Duc d'Anjou, poetry, and portraits. Kapur's *Elizabeth* (1998).

14 March: Mary Queen of Scots: poetry, books, marginalia.

21: work on final paper.

28 March: Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots; *Elizabeth: The Golden Years*

04 April: Elizabeth, the Armada crisis, the "Golden Speech"; *Elizabeth: The Golden Years*.

Evaluation:**1. Seminar Presentations**

You will give **two** oral seminar presentations in this course on two different queens. **You must give one before reading week.** I will distribute topics and students will choose topics in advance (to avoid duplication). You are allowed to choose your own topic as long as you consult with me and the other students. For each presentation you will be expected to demonstrate some familiarity with at least **one secondary source.**

Your presentations will only last for **15 minutes** so you must be ruthlessly concise and efficient in making your argument.

You are free to bring laptops with powerpoints and/or video clips. You will need to bring or borrow an adapter if you are using a mac. You are free to distribute a handout but it should be minimal. And you are NOT required to have a handout.

The main function of a seminar is to exercise your ability to argue a case orally or, if you are a listener, to contribute positively to an intellectual conversation. You may speak from notes or from a written text.

In grading the oral presentations, I will consider the quality of the content and the oral delivery. I will also consider your responses to questions asked by your peers.

2. Abstracts

You must provide a 250 word **abstract** summarizing the scope and thesis of your presentations. They **MUST** be posted to the eportfolio group by 6:00 PM the day **BEFORE** your presentation. They are designed to help you focus your presentation and to help your peers to engage with your ideas. **Allie Davidson (from the Educational Development Center) will be visiting our class to help you set up your eportfolio account. It is easy and pedagogically useful.**

3. Seminar Papers/Projects

You will also submit written and expanded versions (2000 words) of your **TWO** seminar presentations. The paper for the first presentation is due one week after your presentation. The second paper is due by the last day of term. In evaluating the written paper, I will look for a clear argument about the primary text, familiarity with at least one secondary source, and elegant prose

4. One post not tied to an oral presentation. You will provide a 250 word post on a queen you do not present on. They must display thoughtful reflection and they must have a thesis.

5. Participation

You are required to participate actively in every session. You must email me if you are going to be absent. Students who do not participate will **not receive a passing grade** for the participation portion of the grade.

REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.